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Pages 10 & 11

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Page 17

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MARTLET

Thursday, November 17, 2005 | The University of Victoria's Independent Newspaper | www.martlet.ca | Volume 58, Issue 14

Submerging mythology

Metamorphoses a stirring success

Page 13

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Engineering students take on world poverty

by Meghan Planchon

Every three seconds a child dies as a result of extreme poverty.

On Nov. 2 UVic's chapter of Engineers Without Borders hosted a Make Poverty History Day to combat the causes of that sobering fact.

The student engineers joined trade unions, faith groups, charities and students around the world to urge their governments to uphold a commitment to helping the world's poorest.

"We aren't asking for anything governments haven't already promised," said Cheryl Williams, co-president of UVic's Engineers Without Borders (EWB).

Nearly 190 countries signed onto the United Nation's "Millenium Development Goals" (MDGs) in 2000. The eight goals form a blueprint meant to guide development policy. They range from halving extreme poverty to halting the spread of HIV/AIDs, all by the target date of 2015.

The international Make Poverty History campaign has adopted three demands: more and better aid to developing nations, fair international trade laws, and debt cancellation.

Member groups are encouraged to carry out their own initiatives at local and national levels. Canada's national campaign has added to their platform the demand for an end to child poverty in Canada.

On an international scale, the Make Poverty History campaign has used massive celebrity fundraisers to get their message out, including "Live 8" concerts and the recent "Parties against Poverty," a series of anti-poverty parties held around the world in September.

In addition to their work promoting the Make Poverty History movement, EWB works to help people in developing countries gain access to technologies that will improve their lives, said Allison Carruthers, co-president of UVic's EWB chapter. They send volunteers overseas to work alongside locals to help them find sustainable technical solutions to their problems.

"It's not very effective for a bunch of white people to show up in a community and say, 'We have the answers to your problems,'" said Carruthers. "Development is not about you knowing the answers but asking the questions."

Carruthers, who is completing a BA in history, recently went to Zambia as an EWB volunteer where she worked for a Zambian non-governmental organization to teach sustainable agricultural practices to resource-poor farmers. She helped local farmers plant trees whose leaves could be used as fertilizer.

"Because the leaves contain a lot of nitrogen, they serve as organic fertilizer, which is hugely advantageous for farmers who can't afford to buy chemical fertilizer," she explained.

While in Zambia she was mentored by another EWB volunteer, Paul Slomp, who Carruthers pointed to as an example of EWB's commitment to community integration.

"Paul lives on $3 a day and speaks fluent Nyanja, the local dialect. The way he explained it to me is that he doesn't feel he can create any kind of effective development policy until he has experienced, as much as he can, the challenges faced by rural African farmers," Carruthers said.

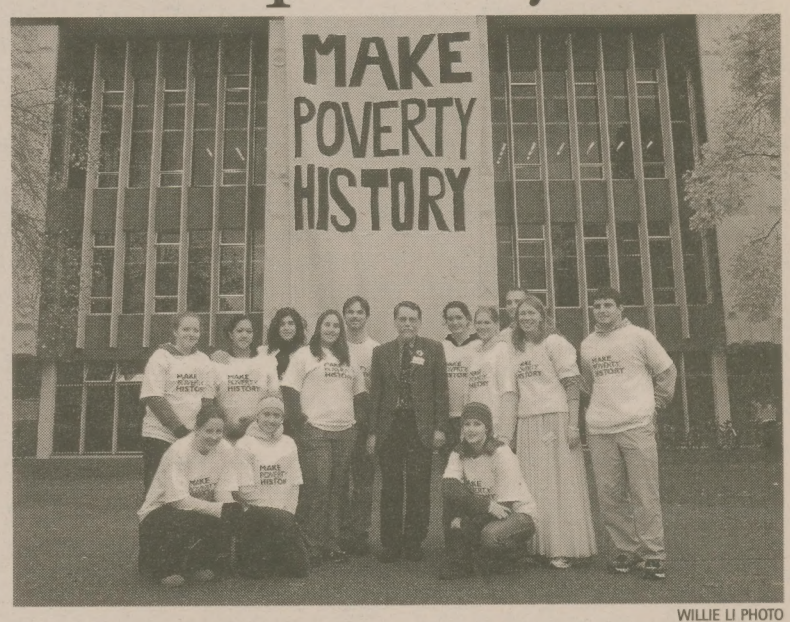
Slomp has been living in a Zambian village called Pashani for two years.

He works with a tool called the treadle pump, which is a foot pump used to irrigate fields. The treadle pump was designed to be simple so that it could be produced locally from local materials, Carruthers explained.

Back in Canada, EWB, an international organization and registered Canadian charity, has been growing rapidly in the past five years.

In 2000 the group received nearly one million dollars in donations from individuals, foundations, corporations, universities and the Canadian International Development Agency.

University chapters form the nucleus of EWB. The UVic chapter started about four years ago and is one of 24 across Canada. UVic's EWB chapter has about 20 regular members, who attend weekly education sessions and help to co-ordinate events such as the make Poverty History Campaign, and other outreach activities.



WILLIE LI PHOTO

Engineering dean Dr. Michael Miller (centre) and the students behind UVic's Make Poverty History Day on Nov. 2.

Last week's event included an information table where people could join the campaign by sending letters to their local representatives and to the Prime Minister, peruse pamphlets, and purchase a white Make Poverty History bracelet by donation.

Perhaps the most impressive event of the day was the draping of an enormous white banner that read "Make Poverty History" down the front of the library. The banner was made out of donated sheets on which volunteers painted their message.

When asked why they had chosen Nov. 2 to stage their event, a volunteer replied, "Because poverty exists today."

UVic's Engineers Without Borders chapter meets every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in CLE D125.

Students sacrifice locks to help make wigs for kids

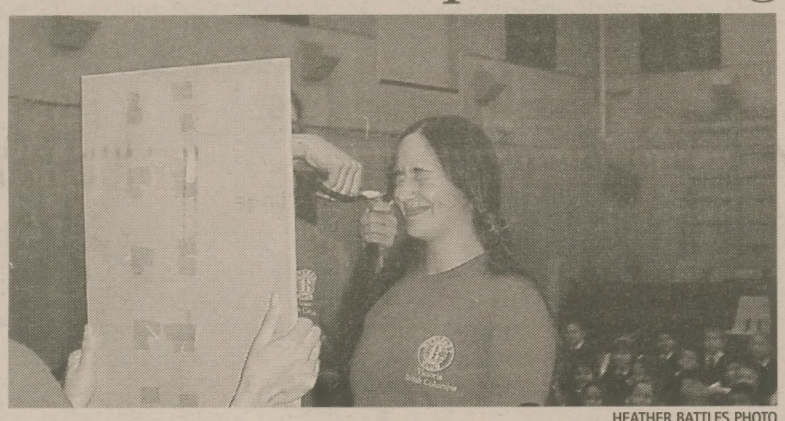
by Jessica Earle

A child with medically induced hair loss will get a new wig and renewed confidence thanks to 47 inches of hair three students donated from their own coifs.

UVic students Holly Seale and Elizabeth Duffus and Camosun student Jason Mildenburger lopped off 14, 18, and 15 inches, respectively, in front of a wide-eyed audience of kindergarten to grade five students at Saint Michaels University Junior School Nov. 8.

"A lot of the goal was to raise awareness," said Seale, who, along with her fellow members of UVic's Rotaract club, an extension of Rotary International, had scissors taken to her ponytail to the squeals and cheers of the young audience. "We wanted to show them that if, say, they start growing their hair when they're six years old, by the time they're sixteen, they could grow 60 inches of hair—possibly enough for four or five wigs."

The six Ziploc bags of hair donated by the trio will most likely be sent to the non-profit Wigs 4 Kids organization in Ohio, as long as a Canadian child will be the recipient, says Seale.



HEATHER BATTLES PHOTO

Elizabeth Duffus cringes as she gets her hair cut Nov. 8.

There, 150,000 strands of natural hair will be hand-tied to the foundation of the wig, which is a mold of the recipient's head to ensure a secure fit. It's a 60-hour process, but the end result is natural-looking wig for a child or teenager who has lost hair due to afflictions such as cancer treatment, a burn injury where scarring peels off hair cells, or alopecia, a genetic disorder that causes hair loss.

This marks the third donation for Duffus, who says she grows her hair with the intention of donating it. Her standard answer for why she does it is that kids who are going through a medical crisis have enough to deal with.

"It got past shoulder-length, and I thought . . . I might as well grow it out and cut it off for a good cause," she said with a shrug.

Seale says most companies only accept donations of at least 10 to 12 inches of untreated hair, though some accept eight inches, and companies often sell shorter or unusable pieces for the making of men's wigs and toupees to offset the cost of production.

Wigs 4 Kids requires 12 ponytails to make one wig, and each donor usually has their hair sectioned into five to six ponytails before it is cut. In all, the students donated 16 sections of hair—more than enough to make one wig.

Seale hopes it will go towards satisfying one of the highest and most expensive demands—a young girl who wants a wig that will give her shoulder-length hair.

Wigs for Kids Canada says the retail value of a wig prosthesis is between $1,500 and $3,000. Although this donation was not done as a fundraiser, the three students are sending $300 along with their hair to offset the cost of production. Duffus attributes the collection of funds primarily to Mildenburger, who received unsolicited donations from people whenever he mentioned he was cutting his hair.

Although Seale admits she brushed her hair for two hours the night before the big cut as a way of saying goodbye to her locks, she says she is happy with her new bob, and like Duffus, would donate her hair again.

Giggling and tucking loose pieces of hair behind their ears, the three say they are happy to make a difference in a child's life, and are enjoying their reward: "My head is so much lighter," said Seale.

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Concerned citizens prepare for Kyoto conference

BC Sustainable Energy Association hosts free public forum for environmental debate

by Micah Luxen

As the global climate warming debate continues to rage, a local group is striving to educate citizens and politicians about the next storm on the horizon.

The BC Sustainable Energy Association (BCSEA) hopes for B.C. to become a world leader in the use of sustainable energy and works to promote their cause within the province.

The group held two presentations in Victoria this month to highlight some of the issues that will be raised at the upcoming United Nations climate change negotiations conference in Montreal.

Over 180 countries will send representatives to the Eleventh Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to discuss new measures to fight climate change from Nov. 28 to Dec. 9. It is the first such conference held since the Kyoto Protocol came into effect Feb. 16, 2005.

"It's a challenge as humans: If we see a baby pussy cat being hurt, we immediately reach out to help it, but if I tell you that 25 per cent of land-based animals and plants will go extinct in 45 years, how do we react?" asked BCSEA president Guy Dauncey. "We're fabulous to react to immediate crisis; if it's an earthquake or the blizzard, we're all out helping each other, but that's a big shift in each of us to realize we need to act on that same level of concern for our neighbors at a global level."

One of the challenges of implementing change is that not everyone is willing to make a personal sacrifice for the sake of the greater environmental good.

David Cubberley, MLA for Saanich South, argues that you cannot convince people to give up their cars just because they should. He says incentives need to be offered to promote an ecological lifestyle. These incentives might entail government-sponsored projects, such as no parking fees for fuel-smart vehicles, and introducing the lifestyle benefits of riding a bike.

"If all you have is a sacrifice model, [people are] not going to want to do it," he said.

Audience member Anke Van Leeuwen agrees that citizens are not often quick to give up the comforts of their lifestyles.

"I don't think that a lot of people are aware that we are destroying our own habitat by our behaviour. There seems to a be a lot of links missing between the behaviour that we do, like hopping into the car to go to the corner store, and how that impacts our environment," she said.

Dauncey, on the other hand, believes that people are becoming more aware of climate change issues. "I think the public is already watching the news, learning about Katrina, realizing that climate change is happening and that there's something we've got to do," he said.

PER LEMBCKE PHOTO

Zev Fisher (right) explains to Todd Carnahan how the sun's energy can be used to heat household water throughout the year at a BC Sustainable Energy Association's exposition on Nov. 12.

Part of the public debate revolved around the question of why Canada's ratification of Kyoto took so long in the first place. Victoria MP David Anderson, who was Environment Minister when Canada ratified the agreement, argued that the government represents the people and the government is hearing that people want health care.

"I think the public has not put enough pressure on the government and conversely, the fossil fuel companies have put pressure on government," said Dauncey. "The oil companies have definitely been in there saying, 'This is what we want,' and I bet you that if I were to go and do a poll of 100 people in downtown Victoria and ask, 'How many of you have written a letter to an MP in the last year?' I might get one."

If MPs and MLAs don't know that climate change is a priority for Canadians, they will not push a sustainable lifestyle onto them, says Dauncey.

"With the elections coming up, we have an opportunity to really push this agenda on a municipal level because municipal governments are really the ones who bring the concerns of the people to the federal level," said Van Leeuwen.

Correction

Incorrect information appeared in "Battle for the boreal" (Nov. 3). We reported that 650 hectares of boreal forest are logged each year; it should have read that 650,000 hectares of boreal forest are logged each year.

We apologize for the error.

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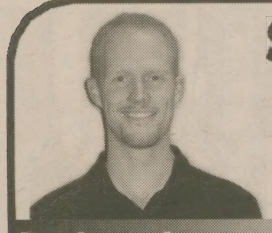

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Filmmaker sheds light on Haitian 'experiment in democracy'

by Kurt Heinrich

Over the past month, American journalist and filmmaker Kevin Pina has toured parts of Canada to introduce his new documentary, *Haiti: The Untold Story*.

One of the first stops of Pina's tour was UVic. Here the filmmaker introduced his new film and fielded questions on the turbulent and charged nature of Haiti's evolving human and political crises. The film and presentation arrive at a particularly tense time in the nation's violence and poverty marked history.

Born in the fire of revolution and out of French slavery, Haiti has seen its share of racial tensions and poverty throughout its two centuries of existence. Over the past century it has also been subjected to a string of dictators and military autocrats who have ruled corruptly, been overthrown, and been assassinated in fairly regular order.

Political instability and rank poverty continued until 1990 when, in one of the first democratic elections in the nation's history, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, a Catholic priest and vehement social and political reformer, was elected with 67 per cent popular support. Aristide's regime, however, was soon toppled by a military coup. Only with the help of the United States and other international countries was the former president able to return to Haiti.

He eventually returned to power in 2000, following a constitutionally imposed interlude that barred him from running consecutively, but fell from power again just four years later. Aristide's critics accused his government of becoming a corrupt dictatorship and anger over human rights abuses prompted the political opposition to call for his resignation. A rebellion began which quickly gobbled up large swaths of Haiti's northern territories. Looters ran riot, with armed gangs on both sides enforcing their own law in the street.

With the rapid advance of rebel troops and anarchy in Port-au-Prince, Haiti's capital, and a lack of international support from France, the United States, and Canada, Aristide was forced to resign on March 1, 2004. According to the Haitian Prime Minister Yvon Neptune, who served alongside Aristide from 2002 to 2004, the former president's exit was designed to "prevent bloodshed."

Neptune has been jailed and held without trial by her country's interim government since June 2004, along with other political prisoners from Aristide's Lavalas party.

Some critics argue that Aristide's reluctant exit had more to do with international pressure than public discord. American filmmaker Pina, who has lived in Haiti for the past six years, argues that the West's waning support for Aristide was due to their revulsion at his populist democratic platform.

"This was a reaction to an ugly little experiment in democracy: popular democracy," stressed Pina in a presentation at UVic last month after his film's screening.

PROVIDED PHOTO

American journalist Kevin Pina spent a weekend in a Haitian jail this past September after he insisted on filming the police search of the church of one of the embattled country's political prisoners.

Despite such condemnations, Haiti, hand in hand with the international community, has been able to slowly crawl up from the anarchy of 2004.

Canada has recently announced a number of initiatives designed to aid in the reconstruction of the small island nation. This past July, Canadian International Development Aid (CIDA) announced a commitment of $180 million for reconstruction.

The funding came on the heels of Elections Canada commitments to monitor Haiti's upcoming elections, scheduled to take place next month.

"Democracy is a fundamental right and Canada is committed to promoting democratic values in Haiti," said International Cooperation Minister Aileen Carroll in June.

Despite such commitments, polls originally scheduled for fall 2005 have twice been postponed. Such actions have caused rising concern in both the United States and the European Union.

Electoral worries have further been compounded by escalating security and human rights problems posed by pro and anti-Aristide gangs.

In one report issued by the International Crises Group (ICG), a Brussels-based non-governmental organization, the situation is "explosive," despite the presence of over 7,400 UN peacekeepers.

Street Newz editor honoured as human rights champion

by Kim Armstrong

Janine Bandcroft was thrilled but puzzled when she was recently recognized as an outstanding contributer to human rights by the Vancouver Island Human Rights Institute (VIHRI).

A UVic alumna with degrees in English and education, Bandcroft is the founder and editor of Victoria's *Street Newz*, a street newspaper written by and for economically marginalized and socially disadvantaged people.

On Oct. 28, she was presented with the award at Royal Roads University's Hatley Castle by the institute, which granted the honour in partnership with the Skies Above Canada Foundation. Alongside her were seven recipients of the VIHRI 2005 Environmental Leadership Awards.

"I'm honoured, but on the other hand, there are all these other people taking much greater risks than I am in defense of human rights," said Bandcroft, pointing out that at the same time as she was receiving her award, campers protesting for the right to sleep were being evicted from Cridge Park by the police.

"I felt sort of weird getting that award... [because] they're the ones putting their lives on the line to fight for our rights for life, liberty and security of person."

Bandcroft has been an activist for environmental issues and social justice for over 15 years, so it is no surprise that the paper she created is primarily about poverty, homelessness and the environment. Anyone who wants to submit to the paper is welcome to do so, resulting in an eclectic collection of articles, letters and creative writing that speaks straight from the heart of Victoria's street community.

The paper provides lists of resources available to disadvantaged persons in the city, a calendar of upcoming community events, and practical advice on relevant issues, including, in a recent issue, an in-depth guide to an individual's rights when dealing with the police.

The newspaper is a collaborative effort and, according to Bandcroft, she's "the person who gathers the work, puts it all together and makes sure it's printed."

There are many reasons to get involved in the newspaper, says Bandcroft. It gives people an opportunity to make their voice heard, the pleasure of getting their work published, and now, an appealing return on invested effort.

While Bandcroft already pays low-income writers for their work, she recently began giving gift certificates to contributors for shops such as the Wilderness Committee's Rainforest Store and Granola Groovy.

"Money is nice, but sometimes if you get a gift certificate you go get things you wouldn't normally buy," she said.

The paper is distributed by a small team of vendors, mostly made up of veteran sellers who have been involved with street papers in other cities before coming to Victoria, says Bandcroft.

This is not always the case, however. Reggie, who declined to give his surname, distributes issues of *Street Newz* in front of the Bay Centre downtown. He has just arrived in the city from Port Renfrew, and plans to stay in town for the winter. He got involved in the paper through the recommendations of a friend, and is working as a vendor to make a few dollars while searching for a job.

The Victoria newcomer says he is glad the paper touches on an issue dear to his heart: fish farms. According to Reggie, who holds a fishing permit in Port Renfrew, the farms produce massive amounts of waste, are breeding grounds for sea lice, a marine parasite, and loose Atlantic salmon into the West Coast ecosystem, devastating local populations.

"They're wrong," he said, shaking his head.

Bandcroft is pleased with the popularity of her paper, the readers of which include low-income people, the elderly community, tourists and local business owners, workers, and patrons. The paper is currently published every two months, but she plans to go to monthly issues within a year.

"The stories are coming from a diverse group, the readers are coming from a diverse group. . . . It's building bridges," she said.

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Water watch group highlights privatization as election issue

by Matthew Gauk

Some 60 volunteers stood in the pouring rain at malls and recreation centres in Langford and Colwood Nov. 5.

They chatted with passersby, handed out leaflets, signed up curious onlookers, and ultimately tried to raise public awareness about water privatization.

As the Nov. 19 municipal election draws near, the newly formed Greater Victoria Water Watch Coalition (GVWWC) has switched their campaign into high gear.

The group, formed in September, has been trying to get candidates on the record in terms of where they stand on the privatization of water-related public services in Greater Victoria. The GVWWC was formed by concerned members of CUPE, in conjunction with groups like the Council of Canadians, a left-wing think tank.

"There's a very much ongoing and active threat to water and wastewater privatization in the Western Communities," said Leslie Dickout, acting co-ordinator of the GVWWC.

Langford already has a 21-year agreement with West Shore Environmental Services, a subsidiary of Terasen Inc., for the management of its sewage. Now, Terasen is actively pursuing Colwood for a similar deal and also wants to branch out into drinking water distribution, according to Dickout.

The debate is framed by the current buyout of Terasen, a Canadian company, by Houston-based Kinder Morgan Inc.

"This is a microcosm, here on the Island. Globally, it's a massive issue; it's a massive, multinational big-dollar issue," said Dickout. "Once [small corporations] get some real interests and assets, the big corporations will come and scoop them up quickly, and then it's a very slippery slope."

Another issue with the privatization of public services is a perceived lack of responsibility, and along with it a concern for public safety. Many people blame the E. coli tragedy in Walkerton, Ont., on the privatization of public water testing labs.

"Once a private company is in charge of either your distribution or service, they are no longer accountable to the people," said Dickout. "Their bottom line is profit."

Water privatization is a concern for all of Greater Victoria, and not just the Western Communities, says Victoria mayoral candidate Ben Isitt.

"What we're seeing right now in Langford is [that] when you hand over the sewer system to a private company, taxpayers pay more and often the quality of service declines," said Isitt. "So I think the privatization of public services is a major problem right now. Most politicians go along with it and it's the public—the taxpayers and residents—who deal with the consequences."

Dickout offers an example of what she and her fellow activists are concerned about.

A private company borrows the money needed to build infrastructure for water services at a much higher interest rate than the municipality. There will be no government grants to help such a company, either.

They will create the infrastructure, a big sewage or water treatment plant, bring immediate results, and promise not to hike rates for the first three years.

"After that the rates will start to increase. Over the long run it's always more expensive," said Dickout.

These are just the technical concerns. Many volunteers get involved from a philosophical perspective.

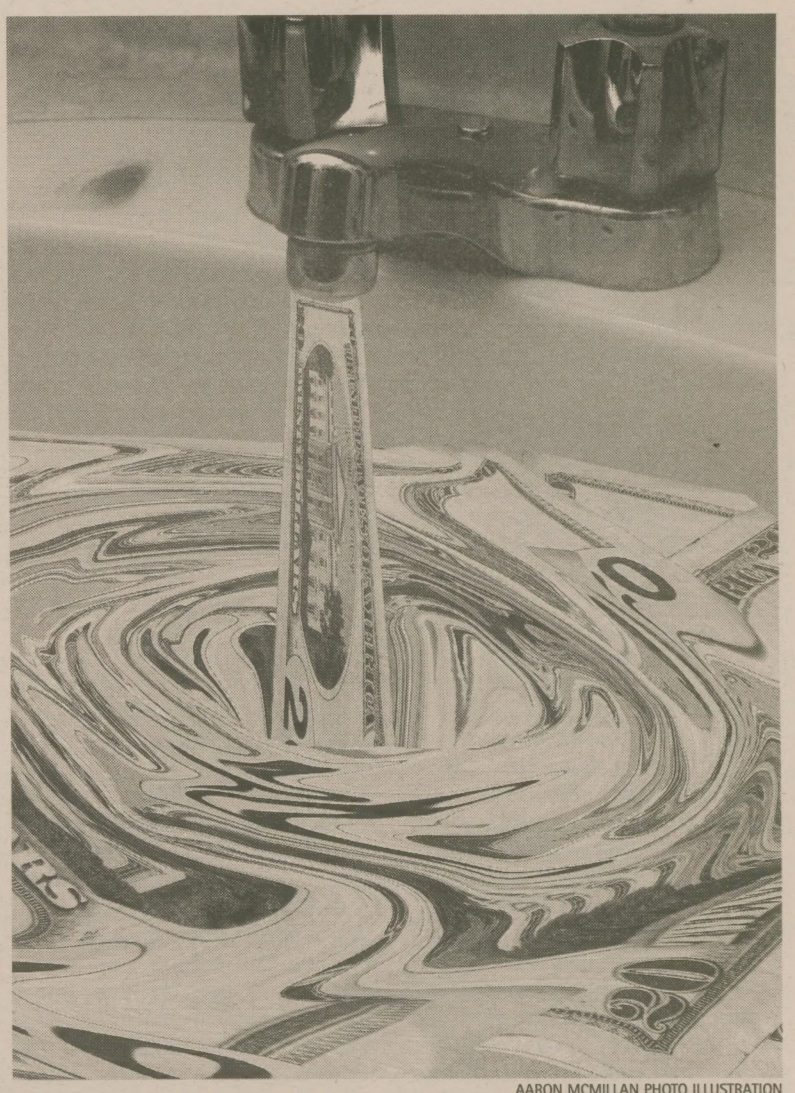
"There's the whole idea of using water as a commodity and actually buying and trading water as if it was something like oil," said Dickout. "This is why we're seeing corporations like Epcor and Terasen working toward privatization—because they see it as the next big cash cow."

Lori Stamm, a 19-year-old UVic student who recently took an interest in water privatization and joined the GVWWC, takes a more pragmatic approach.

"A lot of these contracts getting signed are for 21 years at least. This is going to affect [young people] as we start purchasing homes," said Stamm. "I think we should be proactive before we realize we're stuck in a home with private water systems."

Isitt echoes Stamm's concern.

"I think that's one of the major reasons why this election is so important," said Isitt. "The politicians who are elected on Nov. 19 will either hold the line, either say no to privatization and protect public assets, or they'll allow Terasen and Epcor to take control of our water and sewer systems."



AARON MCMILLAN PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

A concerned citizens' group is asking municipal candidates to state their positions on a privatization move that could end up putting Colwood's water supply in the hands of American companies.

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Canada

Kindness Crew shares warm fuzzies

by Matthew Gauk

When a stranger comes up and hugs you on the street, it's usually creepy. When the Kindness Crew does it, it's slightly less so.

And by the time they explain why they are hugging you and you see their emblazoned shirts with a logo, you know they're not just copping a feel or reaching for your wallet or purse, so it is not that uncomfortable at all. In fact, most people walk away smiling.

Victoria Kindness Crew volunteers handed out hugs, coffee, food, compliments and good cheer from Nov. 5 to 10 all over Victoria as part of Compassion in Action week. The group was inspired by the original Kindness Crew, four UVic alumni who traveled across Canada encouraging people to commit random acts of kindness.

"We're doing this to help spread the message of the importance of kindness, and how simple and fun it can be," said co-ordinator Dr. Mark Sherman. "That message seems to have gotten out there, which really is incredible."

Events included a Kindness Walk around downtown with drummers and banners, handouts to cars stuck in rush-hour traffic, a clown show, a vegetarian lunch for 220 people, and a Kindness Zone at Bastion Square where volunteers handed out flowers, coffee, cookies, free chair massages, and children's toys.

"The amazing thing with events like that is that kindness, or whatever we're offering, is more of a medium to connect with people," said Sherman. "That's the magical thing about the Kindness Zone, because we had a lot of volunteers there and we were able to just have conversations with people and see how their day is going.

All of a sudden two strangers aren't strangers anymore."

Most of the Kindness Crew members have always been involved in volunteer activities and enjoy helping others, says Sherman. After hearing of the original UVic Kindness Crew, Sherman and several others decided to put together a group to encourage kindness through public activities year-round.

"For me, connecting with people on that level and being able to approach strangers with hugs rather than not even looking them in the eye was a motivating factor," Sherman said.

The Kindness Crew would like to be promoting random acts of kindness 365 days a year, but the volunteer base doesn't allow it, Sherman noted.

Organizers will be getting together soon to plan out other schemes that will encourage the average person to commit random acts of kindness.

MATTHEW GAUK PHOTO

Members of the Victoria Kindness Crew were out in full force from Nov. 5 to 10 promoting random acts of kindness to passersby.

Candidates: Saanich and Victoria

Municipal elections are Nov. 19—are you ready to cast your vote?

by Kim Armstrong

This week, the *Martlet* asked municipal candidates from Victoria and Saanich, "If elected, what will be your number one priority for change in your municipality?"

An '*' indicates an incumbent.

VICTORIA

Running for mayor

Ben Isitt: "As mayor, I will work hard to look after people who need help and protect our environment from ill-considered development."

Alan Lowe*: "I do not have a number one priority for change as I believe we are moving in the right direction and we would continue to make Victoria the most livable city in Canada."

Unavailable for Comment: **Gregory Hartnell, Georgia Jones, Diana Smardon.**

Running for Council (eight positions available)

Marianne Alto: "If elected . . . I'd work to create a regional transportation authority that could (a) increase transit service by 35 per cent over the next 5 years, (b) maintain fares at their current levels, (c) explore additional funding sources and (d) examine other transportation improvement options."

Chantal Brodeur: "We need to protect our community and seniors centres from proposals to shut them down. Instead these centres need better funding so they can improve neighbourhood services."

Denyce Burrows: "If I am elected my commitment is to, in all circumstances, improve public safety for all."

Chris Coleman*: "The number one priority is the challenge of embracing sustainable economic development while still protecting the area's quality of life."

Dean Fortin*: "We need to urgently deal with the crisis of homelessness in Victoria and build affordable housing for groups badly affected by high rents, like seniors and students."

Rose Henry: "If I really did get into an elected position then I, as Victoria's first First Nations person since the city's conception, would like to challenge the by-law that would see that all [single-room occupancy] suites be legalized so that we could gain some kind of control over the amount of [people] ending up homeless."

Bea Holland*: "I think the challenge related to change is to have ongoing consultation and communication, and create a dialogue of information so as issues are faced, everyone is up to date on the process and need for change."

Wayne Hollohan: "[My number one priority is] community respect, community planning, community consultation and community voice and vote."

Helen Hughes*: "The most important issue is that a councillor must listen to and work with the community to ensure that our neighbourhoods and developments within them are serviced with environmentally sound practices that meet the needs for now and for the future of young people, families and seniors."

Patrick Jamieson: "Number one issue is the widening rich-poor gap. Developers are exploiting the situation, but need to be required to provide mixed housing and employment training and opportunities for the homeless, not by putting funds in a designated account but by direct involvement with the lives of the homeless."

Allen Jones: "Social problems, i.e., find homes for homeless, treatment for people [that] have drugs problems."

Erik Kaye: "We must stop dumping raw sewage into the Juan de Fuca Strait, and the next council must promptly bring in secondary sewage treatment."

Paul Lutack: "Help and emphasis to the homeowner. Property tax is based on property assessment, [and] I think the property assessment is too high and too inflated."

Pam Madoff*: "Students and seniors throughout Victoria are left waiting for buses and that's unacceptable. We need a regional transit authority, a 35 per cent increase in bus service, and a cap on fare increases."

Denis F. Oliver: "My main issue is feeding and housing Victorians."

Wayne Poohachoff: "In order to get better control of land use and other things which impact the ecological, social and economic environments, I intend to respect and carry forth the needs and wants of the community, determined by comprehensive, consensus-based public involvement in planning, policy, and decision-making."

George Sirk: "Our youth need more support and less rhetoric, and I would build two new skateboard parks in Victoria—state of the art and huge—a real treat to use and healthy to boot."

Bryan Skinner: "Victoria needs to be more fun and affordable for young people, so I will be fighting for better bus service, cheaper housing, and more year-round events downtown, like summer music festivals."

Randy Smith: "If elected, the number one thing I would do in my municipality would be [to] improve the transit system and reduce the number of vehicles in the town core, which in turn would reduce air pollution from idling cars sitting in traffic."

Geoff Young: "I would work to make the city more receptive to pedestrian and bicycle travel and public transit. We do not need more freeways and wider roads to speed automobile travel."

Unavailable for Comment: **Sonya Chandler, Terry Colburn, Ken Frenette, Roderick Fuller, Sue Hendricks, Phillipe Lucas, Shannon Renault, Charlayne Thornton-Joe*.**

SAANICH

Running for mayor

Incumbent Mayor Frank Leonard has been acclaimed for this position.

Running for Council (eight positions available)

Judy Brownoff*: "The number one priority for change is a Regional Transportation Authority—one that can provide a balanced funding formula for all modes, including transit, cycling, walking, and goods and service movements."

Patrick Chenier: "We should aim high to create a transportation and traffic management strategy that is sustainable and innovative, [and] we must be cognizant of inter-municipal cooperation.

Vic Derman*: "Better long-term planning to create a solid vision for the redevelopment of the Saanich urban area."

Paul Gerrard: "We need to do some long-term planning, because we only have one chance to get it right. If we mess it up, we're going to be living with our mistake for the next 50 years."

Ian Graeme: "My number one priority is to develop a proactive plan for regional growth and transportation that includes transforming 1960s-era shopping malls like University Heights and Town and Country into sustainable "complete communities" containing a mix of housing, employment, services, recreation and connected green space."

Katrina Jean Herriot: "My number one priority is allowing the space for people to work less and have more fun in their lives."

Paul McIvett: "My number one priority is to work for affordable housing."

Alastair Murdoch: "I would like to see Saanich make it as easy, safe, and comfortable to walk, bike, and bus in the municipality as it is to drive."

Lana Popham: "My number one priority for change in Saanich is to largely increase environmental commitment by highlighting issues such as alternative transportation choices, and ensuring a "yes" vote with regards to a referendum on the Sewage Treatment issue by using education as a tool."

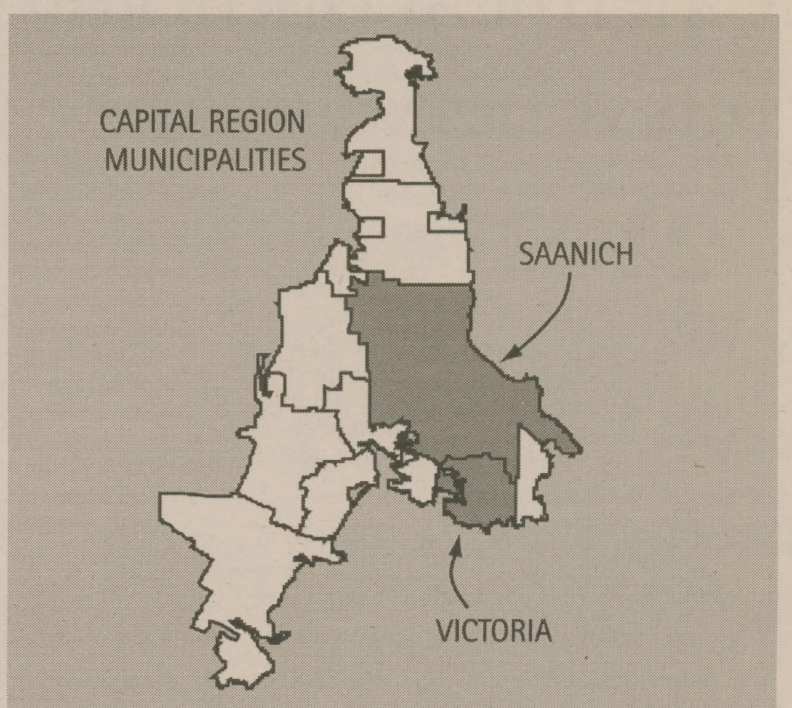
Evan Roberts: "I would promote smart, sensible, sustainable, environmentally friendly development including more student-affordable rental housing close to Camosun and UVic."

Ralph Sketchley: "[My priority] is increased spending on transportation infrastructure, especially sidewalks and community cycle lanes, and pay for it by exploring new sources of revenue for Saanich."

Leif Wergeland*: "I would like to see a long term plan for growth developed in Saanich, including such items as action plans for redevelopment, affordable housing, [and] traffic and transportation."

Wayne Hunter: "An integrated transportation plan. This should be overseen by a new Transportation Authority, which would not only be responsible for linking with vehicle and bus routes but also with how cycling and pedestrian ride/walkways fit into the mix. . . . Rapid transit corridors should also be part of this as we do have the Regional Growth Strategy as a framework for regional growth."

Unavailable for Comment: **Susan Brice, Bob Gillespie*, Jackie Ngai*, Vicki Sanders.**



GRAPHIC STARK GRAPHIC

For the past two issues, the *Martlet* has provided coverage of municipal candidates and their mandates for change. This week, Kim Armstrong tracked down the candidates for Victoria and Saanich.

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Editorial

Chemical dumping hits a nerve

The ocean has long been the favourite dumping ground for human waste, and not just the type we here in Victoria are responsible for.

In fact, there isn't much that doesn't end up in the oceans of the world: from sewage to medical waste, oil to plain old garbage—it can all be found bobbing around. The condom reef that was rumoured to be floating in the South Pacific turned out to be a fake, but prophylactics in the water are still a problem: In Milwaukee, condoms must be scooped out the wastewater treatment plant, and sometimes the harbour, with a net.

If there's nowhere else to put it, we seem happy to dump it in the water, where it will either sink deep into the abyss or bob around for a while before washing up on a distant shore. Out of sight, out of mind.

That must have been the thinking that prompted the American and Canadian militaries to dump unused weapons—explosives, mustard gas and other chemical agents—into the oceans following the First and Second World Wars.

After all, what else were they going to do with them? Storing them would have its own problems (hate for that stuff to end up in the wrong hands, or for it to go off); dismantling them would be dangerous, perhaps impossible.

In the short term, it was a fine plan. Then in 2004, a clam dredging operation in New Jersey pulled up an old artillery shell. Bomb disposal technicians were called in to dismantle it; three of them were injured. As it turns out, the shell was filled with mustard gas in solid form.

There are a few lessons that could be taken from this: Don't mess around with things if you don't know what they are. Label your bombs and/or your dumping grounds. There is no place that is truly "out of sight" enough, or long enough, to be safe.

The U.S. Army now admits that it secretly dumped 64 million pounds of nerve and mustard agents into the sea, along with 400,000 chemical-filled bombs, land mines and rockets and more than 500 tons of radioactive waste—either tossed overboard or packed into the holds of scuttled vessels off the shores of the U.S. and 16 other countries.

Similar chemical weapons have now been found off the coast of B.C., but Canadian Department of National Defence officials seem uncertain about a couple of things: what they are and to whom they belong. What they will say is that the weapons are unlikely to pose a threat to human health.

That would seem to make the assumptions that the weapons are going to stay where they are, that the metal isn't going to corrode, and that the health of the oceans isn't important to our health.

Craig Williams, director of the Chemical Weapons Working Group, a U.S.-based watchdog agency, says little is known about the environmental impact of such sites.

In fact, no one seems to have a clue what might happen, but a lot of people—local politicians, people from places where the U.S. might have dumped weapons, environmental groups—are worried about the possibilities.

They also have some questions: Will the weapons leak, where are the dumpsites, why weren't they monitored, and why wasn't anyone told about the potential dangers?

These questions have come up before, with nuclear and other toxic wastes. The consequences of making the wrong decision have been tragic. Love Canal in New York State was a toxic waste dump. Hooker Chemical Company sold the land to the city, which then built on it. Chemicals leached into the soil, people got sick, the number of birth defects—extra rows of teeth, for example—rose.

We should ask these types of questions before we dump waste, and we should have an idea about the answers. It's a little something called the precautionary principle: if you don't know whether something is harmless, treat it like it's dangerous. If you don't know how to dispose of something safely, maybe you should hold off on making it until you figure that out.

The chemical weapons in the ocean have already been made and disposed of, but it looks like they will have to be dealt with again. Those in charge need to make sure that they do it the right way this time.

Editorial topics are decided at weekly editorial meetings and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of all staff members.

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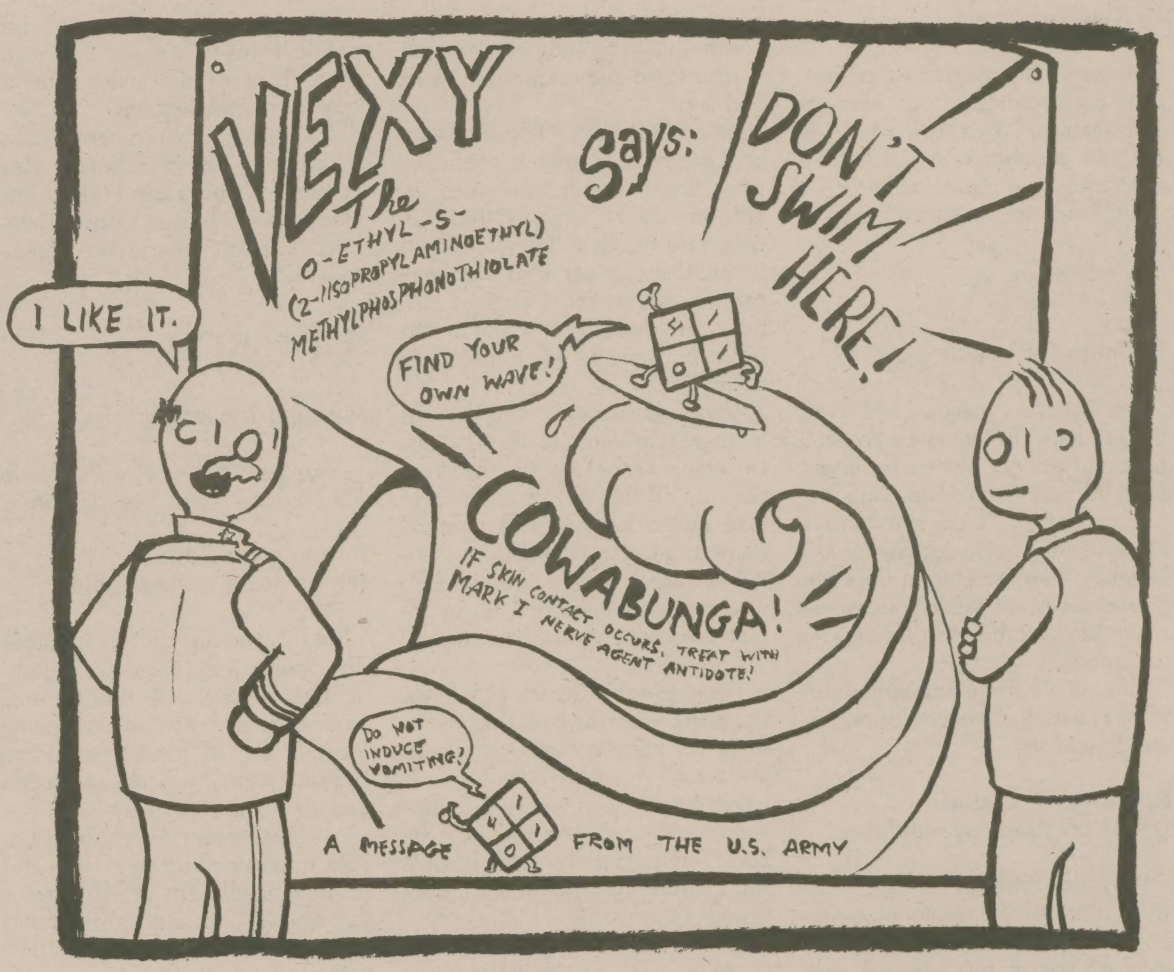
EDITORIAL CARTOON | STOP-GAP SOLUTION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DO NOT INDUCE VOMITING!
A MESSAGE FROM THE U.S. ARMY

ANTHONY FRATTAROLI GRAPHIC

LETTERS

I heart Martlet

I always look forward to picking up a copy of the *Martlet* each week since it provides such a wonderfully refreshing contrast to the mindless corporate drum beating of the *Times Colonist*, the *Vancouver Sun*, etc.

I particularly enjoyed cut-the-guff editorial "War is hell on earth" and Melanie Greene's very perceptive article "The homeless lose shelter once again" in your edition of the week of Nov. 3.

Keep up the comfortable-afflicting good work!

-Gordon Pollard

Be Canadian, create sewage

I don't know why UVic students would really want to vote for sewage treatment ("Students may tip sewage scale, says activist," *Martlet* Nov.3) when the only people who benefit will be tourist businesses. These businesses just want to convince the American tourists that Victoria is just another copy of their cities. Why do we want to always ape the Americans? Can't we think independently and decide what's right for us?

Just last week, the CRD's 2004 marine environment report showed the pollution from sewage is not a problem because the natural systems of Juan de Fuca Strait are recycling the sewage.

The *Martlet* article didn't say how much this silly sewage plan would cost, but I've heard that it will be hundreds of millions. Don't we have better ways to spend so much money, like by fighting poverty, building affordable housing, or improving transit?

-John Newcomb

High tuition makes UVic elitist

A letter in last week's *Martlet* ("Ben Isitt calls UVic elitist," Letters, Nov. 3) referred to my statements regarding the elitist nature of UVic. Having completed a BA and MA at UVic, I have tremendous respect for students, staff and faculty.

Nonetheless, recent decisions of the Board of Governors and the provincial government on tuition fees have made the university more elitist, and less accessible to low-income students.

Progressive members of the UVic community have always recognized this problem, and put pressure on governments to follow the Scandinavian model of tertiary education: grants rather than loans, and a zero-tuition policy that keeps education affordable to everyone, and not just the privileged.

-Ben Isitt, Victoria Civic Electors' candidate for Mayor

UVic is elitist, part 2

While I'm sure that the experience of going through both Camosun and UVic has given John Newcomb a broad perspective on the issue of elitism at UVic ("Ben Isitt calls UVic elitist," Letters, Nov. 3), it has also given him a bias.

I'll tell you why Ben Isitt thinks UVic students are elitist: Because we are!

As much as I respect people who go to Camosun and their reasons for doing so, I still play a game everyday on the #4 bus from Quadra and Hillside. I look at people on the bus and guess if they get off at the Camosun bus stop. I judge them by their appearance, conversations, books they are reading etc. It's kind of like who gets voted off the island.

The unsnobby, probably correct, Camosun student might tell me to get a life, but I still stay seated at Henderson and Landsdowne. So there.

-Graham Crowe

Canada-China: Bogus politics

I was attending the Lecture at UVic this week where Chantal Meagher from the Canada Embassy in Beijing was lecturing about human rights, challenges and opportunites in China.

According to China watchers, the country is very unstable with the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) on the verge of collapse. In the last few months over 5 million people have quit the party. It is clear to me that one should pay attention to this unusual turn of event and make wise business choices based on this phenomenon.

The lecturer spoke about freedom of expression being more respected in communist China. This minor improvement is not significant—people are still thrown in jail for posting sensitive articles on the web, harassed for being a journalist, tortured for being Falun Gong, imprisoned for owning a copy of the Nine Commentaries on the CCP, etc.

In the news today I read the story of a lawyer in Guangdong province, Gao Zhisheng, who was punished for defending the rights of his clients and expressing his concerns. Beijing suspended his license for one year. To this day judges don't even make decisions in the courthouse . . . all is fixed behind closed door under the auspices of the CCP. The Canadian effort to train judges hasn't given many positive results so far!

Canada is so busy at finding ways to exploit opportunities (in China) that it forgets to look at the real picture—the Red Dragon is starving and will do anything to dominate the West. To attract investors they even go as far as pretending to redress their human rights record to be more accepted by the western world. Will Canadians be duped much longer? Time to wake up.

-Marie Beaulieu

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Martlet is published every Thursday.

Treason gets you one lash with wet noodle

Libbey should have been indicted for treason; he will probably be pardoned instead

by Matt Gauk

On Oct. 28, Dick Cheney's right-hand man, Lewis "Scooter" Libby, resigned hours after being indicted on counts of perjury and obstruction of justice.

Officially, Libby was the chief of staff and assistant to National Security Affairs for Cheney. Unofficially, he was a major mover and shaker in the emergence of the neoconservative movement. He was a student under Paul Wolfowitz and a founding member of the Project for a New American Century. Few have done more to shape American national security and foreign policy over the past 20 years.

The Valerie Plame affair is much too complicated to get into here. Essentially, Libby is complicit in the outing of CIA non-official cover (NOC) agent Plame for her husband's role in criticizing the Bush administration's realpolitik excuses for war. But instead of being charged with treason, for which he could hypothetically be executed, the man behind the man behind the man will get, at worst, a million dollar fine and 30 years in jail.

Critics and commentators have noted that the Democratic Party and independent investigatory bodies alike have finally found their voices and are taking a stand against neocon corruption and abuse. The funny thing, and funny only if you find infuriating irony and hypocrisy as amusing as I do, is that the rest of the gang—Rove, Cheney, Wolfowitz et al.—will likely walk free.

The situation is serious, but at the same time laughable. Why, after years of war, propaganda, paranoia, corruption, dishonesty, the breaking of UN law and flouting of international law, not to mention domestic policies that fly in the face of the Constitution and common sense, why is the bureaucratic neocon clique being chastised now, and for such a relatively minor affair?

It's not all that complicated.

The last White House staffer to be indicted while in office was Orville Babcock in 1875, for being part of a corrupt "Whiskey Ring." This scandal involved bribery and corruption among distillers and government officials, and reached all the way into the Oval Office. Babcock was private secretary to President Grant, and was soon pardoned by him for his part in the scandal. (A century later, Nixon deftly avoided indictment for Watergate and was given a clean pardon by his successor, President Ford.)

Libby is a fall guy. Not only does his prosecution satisfy the limited, thin bloodlust of the Democratic opposition, it mollifies legitimate grievances against the current U.S. administration. Even if, by some miracle, Libby spends some time behind minimum-security bars or drops a little cash on a fine, the neocons lose little political cache.

They've already pushed the fence sitters to take sides, and if one professional bureaucrat loses his post, it hardly qualifies as a major setback for the movement. And this is assuming Libby doesn't beat the charges or get a pardon from Bush.

The Plame affair has proven that the kingmakers in the U.S. are fallible, but only when there's an abundance of proof and a will to prosecute.

It may be that the only way Bush, Cheney, or Rumsfeld will be held accountable for their intransigencies is if overwhelming evidence and a popular determination for justice forces the hand of the prosecutorial powers.

All oiled up and no one to hug

Canada is not mere parcels of land bound together by maple leaves and hockey tape

by Norman Ed Baskerville

Cry into your hemp hankies environmentalists and rejoice SUV owners—Canada has the second largest proven crude oil reserves in the world.

And while you're at it, recycle your "I support the Kyoto Accord" buttons, because pollution concerns always take a back seat to economics. And currently, the world's demand for petroleum is suffering a supply shortfall due to the increase of industrialization in China and other developing global powers, and from the United States' constant destabilization of the Middle East oil industry.

Well, if we can't breathe clean air, at least it looks as if the great white north finally has a gravy train of its own. However, this couldn't be further from the truth, as it seems those Albertans want to keep all the money for themselves.

The majority of reserves are found in Alberta's oil sands, and the province isn't keen on sharing the profits with the rest of the country. Responding to a Strategic Counsel poll, 70 per cent of Albertans said the province's surplus—possibly $7 billion this fiscal year—should remain within its borders.

To be fair, Alberta presently contributes $9 billion more to the federal government than they receive. However, considering the vast economic bounty of the province's oil industry, that number should increase—if we are truly a unified nation, and not mere parcels of land conveniently bound together by maple leaves and hockey tape.

Disputes over petroleum control have led to acrimonious debates between Alberta and the federal government for decades, and have fuelled strong provincial-rights and even quasi-separatist political movements.

Indeed, another Strategic Counsel poll echoes the burgeoning "have" and "have not" divide. Of people living outside of Alberta, 76 per cent said provincial resources belong to all Canadians. I agree, but thanks to the law of the land, Alberta can hoard oil revenues all it wants.

Pertaining to non-renewable resources, the Canadian Charter puts ownership of, legislative control over, and power of direct taxation exclusively with the provinces. Albertans are adamant that they keep for themselves what *Time* magazine described as "Canada's greatest buried energy treasure," which "could satisfy the world's demand for petroleum for the next century."

Just how much treasure does Alberta have confined to its borders? According to the province's department of energy, the oil sand deposits contain approximately 1.6 trillion barrels of black gold, of which 174 billion barrels are reserves that can be recovered using current technology. To put the barrel count in perspective, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration our oil-addicted friends south of the border (the world's largest consumer of petroleum) has a mere 22 billion barrels in reserve.

Still, with Alberta's cup running over its tightly clasped hands, Premier Ralph Klein said that his province already sends "billions and billions" to Ottawa.

Klein has to pull his finger out of his oil sands and realize that Canada is one of the only countries in the world that doesn't have a system of equitable distribution of natural resource revenues.

Even Iraq's new constitution guarantees equality of natural resource revenue distribution throughout the country.

According a 2005 poll for the Financial Post, Canadian CEOs and business leaders foresee a 70 per cent probability that Alberta's petrol wealth will result in an increased conflict between Edmonton and Ottawa.

Money changes everything, and if Alberta isn't careful, my guess is the rest of Canada will take back the right for provinces to have complete jurisdiction over their resources.

Creation talk creates only controversy

The organizers tried to tactlessly convert the non-Christians in the room

by David Namkung

As a Christian, it pains me to have to say that the Nov. 3 lecture on creation misled a large bulk of the audience, including myself, providing a disservice to the academic and Christian community here at UVic.

Because of that event, I believe that the Christian community lost the credibility to bring in other speakers with regards to the topic.

First of all, I think the majority of the people that attended the lecture (Christians and non-Christians alike) expected the previously secular scholar, Dr. Roger Oakland (a former biology professor) to explain why he refutes evolutionary theory and supports creationist theory instead.

At most, he briefly skimmed these subjects. Instead, he mostly supported why Christians should believe in the idea of creationism based on biblical scriptures, which was great for us Christians to hear, but unhelpful to the non-Christians.

To be fair, the lecture was in fact titled "Creation: Foundation of the Christian Faith & Creation Evangelism."

The content of the lecture is not what perturbed me the most. The organizers tailored the talk to the main speaker and did not dictate what he talked about, but provided him with an outline that they believed was appropriate.

The reason why this lecture concerned me was the additional features that the advertisements and outlines failed to mention, most notably the praise music and preaching.

If this had been in a church environment, and if it had been advertised properly, I would have been all for it and would have informed my peers accordingly.

The organizers had to have known that non-believers would attend this session. The organizers prepared an unconvincing concluding message that had nothing to do with creationism and everything to do with trying to tactlessly convert the non-Christians in the room.

The lack of consideration was uncomfortable to sit through. When Jesus preached to the Jews and gentiles, understanding his audience, he either referenced to text (the Old Testament) that the Jews themselves already believed in, provided miracles (which we as Christians believe to have happened), or demonstrated unprecedented love and grace. From what my peers and I saw, the pastor that was preaching to us (the man introducing and concluding Dr. Oakland) did none of these. He was trying to convince the audience with a "because the bible says so" approach to reasoning. For a person who doesn't believe in the Bible, this isn't very convincing.

I want to say to the organizers of the event, in particular to the pastor that spoke, that I understand the goal which you all were trying to fulfill.

I support you fully, and try to live up to those goals in my daily life. However, in this circumstance, I disagree with your means to that desired end.

If you plan to bring in a creationist speaker, please understand that UVic is a particularly sensitive campus. There will definitely be a large contingent of individuals, Christians and non-Christians alike, who will wish to hear evidence to support scientific claims.

We will also want to ask questions communally. It's what students do best!

Questions allow us to catch things that we might not have thought of ourselves.

As an aside, I emailed Dr. Oakland about it and he told me that he wanted to do Q&A but the organizers wished otherwise. Dr. Oakland was surprised about the structure of the talk.

If you are curious about looking into the scientific positions supporting creationism or intelligent design, check out articles by Dr. Jonathan Wells (PhD in molecular and cell biology from Berkeley) or Dr. Michael Behe (PhD in biochemistry from the University of Pennsylvania).

For an interesting debate with strong arguments on both sides of the fence take a look at www.actionbioscience.org/evolution/nhmag.html#educatorresources.

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TOM GREEN PHOTO

AL HARVEY/SLIDEFARM PHOTO

THE WAR FOR THE WO

Ten years of negotiations and

by Bryna Hallam

There is peace in the Great Bear Rainforest, but it is a tentative peace.

Over the past four years, stakeholders—local communities, logging companies, labour, tourism and conservationists, among others—have sat down and banged out a land-use plan for the Central Coast, also known as the Great Bear Rainforest.

Located along B.C.'s coast between Bute Inlet and the Alaskan border, the Great Bear Rainforest is the last, largest stand of intact temperate old growth rainforest in the world, as well as the largest contiguous area of unprotected rainforest.

It has been nearly two years since those groups completed the first of two consensus agreements on land-use in the Great Bear Rainforest. Those agreements were followed by direct negotiations between provincial and First Nations governments in order to finalize the plan.

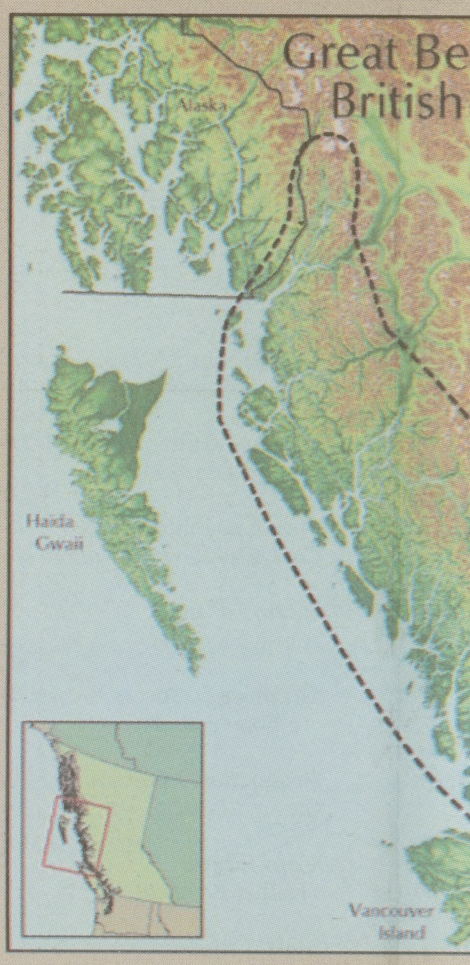
Although far from perfect, the plan is significant: it marks the first time the different sides have agreed on pretty much anything.

They've come up with a plan, but now it is all at risk, thanks to the provincial government, who missed a self-imposed December 2004 deadline for approving the agreement. Two additional deadlines—Spring 2005 and "end of summer"—have since passed, and stakeholders are worried there is more than the agreement at risk: much of the funding was promised based on approval. If it takes any longer, that funding might just disappear.

Roughly 8.5 million hectares of ancient cedar, salmon, wolf and bear habitat in the temperate rainforest are at stake, along with a billion dollars in wood and wood products sales and $200 million in financing for conservation-based economic initiatives.

Even more than that, 10 years of work at changing how environmentalists, industry and First Nations interact could be undone.

"For years, all parties set aside confrontation in favour of negotiation," said Amanda Carr, a Greenpeace campaigner. "But the value of the negotiation route is in question given the [provincial government]'s continued failure to meet commitments and timelines."



Life in the forest

Heralded by Time magazine in 1999 as "the number one environmental issue on the planet," the Great Bear Rainforest is home to dense grizzly populations, rich salmon runs, and the rare white spirit (kermode) bear.

The area is also home to 41,000 First Nations people. For many communities, this agreement represents a sustainable way of doing business.

Klemtu Tourism, for example, is an eco-tourism business owned and operated by the community of Klemtu, the only occupied village in Kitasoo/Xai'xais territory.

Evan Loveless, who works with Klemtu Tourism, says the agreement is integral to the future success of the business. "The proposed protected area will be essential for sustaining eco-tour activity in the region," he said. "Also, the proposed protected area becoming official will create a huge impact as far as putting the area on the 'tourism map.'"

Loveless also says the agreement will attract the proposed conservation funding that will help put tourism on the same footing as forestry and aquaculture.

Beginnings

Twelve years ago, protestors focused on another rainforest and took to the woods in Clayoquot Sound in the largest act of civil disobedience in Canadian history—900 people were arrested. Eyes turned towards B.C. and awareness about logging practices in the province spread.

The Clayoquot protests paved the way for action on the Great Bear Rainforest. Blockades sprung up across logging roads, halting work for weeks at a time; consumers around the globe urged the B.C. logging industry and the government to adopt sustainable forest practices; and pressure on companies by environmental groups started to have an effect.

Over 80 companies, including Ikea, Home Depot, Staples and IBM, committed to stop selling wood and paper products made from ancient forests.

In addition, German pulp producers and magazine publishing associations supported limited logging in the Great Bear Rainforest and urged companies, environmentalists and the provincial government to find a shared solution.

The quest for a solution was plagued with problems from the beginning.

In 1996, when the B.C. government initiated the Central Coast planning table, set up to determine future land-use on the Central Coast, environmental groups refused to participate because the scope of the land-use planning was limited to current approaches to forestry and economics. They denounced the planning table as a "talk and log" process that would not change anything.

It was not until two years later that environmental groups came to the table for the Central Coast Land and Resource Management Planning process in exchange for a temporary moratorium on logging in large intact rainforest valleys.

Four environmental groups—the Coastal Rainforest Coalition (now ForestEthics), Greenpeace, Rainforest Action Network, and the Sierra Club of Canada, B.C. Chapter—negotiated with four major coastal logging companies—Interfor, Western Forest Products, WestFraser and Weyerhaeuser—plus two pulp companies, NorskeCanada and Canfor—to extend the moratorium to all intact rainforest valleys in the Great B ration of the land-use planning phase.

With the groundwork laid, it seemed the r to happen.

On April 4, 2001, after four years of meet First Nations, industry, environmentalist agreed to create protected areas and to exp management (EBM) could be used in the c

This historic agreement signaled a landm to environmentally responsible forest pra B.C. government, the forest industry and en mitted $4 million to establish a "blue ri Coastal Information Team (CIT)—tasked for EBM in B.C.'s coastal rainforests.

Ecosystem-based management

The purpose of EBM is to achieve health human communities that can coexist—be cannot be sustained unless ecosystems are

As the CIT points out in its review report short term if ecosystems are put last, but ev ecosystems are put first, human wellbeing socioeconomic needs are not met, ecosys fail. As a result, maintaining ecological inte requires a strong emphasis on both.

EBM's guiding principles are to maintain mote human wellbeing; sustain cultu economies; recognize Aboriginal rights an tionary principle; and ensure people have of their ecosystems. The key elements of E servation planning, socio-economic planni

EBM sounds like a near-perfect plan for s

Of course, that would depend on whethe ic recommendations were followed.

That's where things seem to have gone w

'Best science available'

While the agreement itself might be grou question as to whether the contents of the cant.

Despite all the money funneled into CIT others to get the "best science available" haven't always been followed. For example, least 44 per cent of the area should be pro proposal, only about a third of it actually w

In addition, CIT's recommendations hav guide, not as legally binding changes to the used. This, says the David Suzuki Founda ment and industry can continue to exploit

This has become one of the biggest criticis

Many groups contend that the level of p protect species over time.

"In essence," said Ian McAllister, conserva coast Conservation Society, "the plan does

Woods

s and a landmark consensus threatened by government delays

PROVIDED GRAPHIC

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Great Bear Rainforest for the du-
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quantity and quality of habitat recommended by leading scientists to ensure the future of sensitive coastal animals like bears, salmon, grizzly bear and wolf, to name a few, plus the actual form of protection is questionable."

In a study commissioned by Raincoast, bear biologists Dr. Brian Horejsi and Dr. Barrie Gilbert show that 80 per cent of grizzly bear habitat will remain unprotected in the land-use plan.

In addition, says McAllister, the majority of proposed protected areas allow trophy hunting of wolves, and grizzly and black bears. He claims the plan also fails to follow the precautionary approach—that actions suspected of being harmful should be banned unless they are proved harmless—as called for by EBM principles.

"We would like this plan recognized for what it is—a land-use plan that is based largely on political and economic interests not in science and ecological processes," said McAllister.

Clearcuts in the forest

McAllister believes that involving timber companies in the planning doomed the process to failure.

"If our priority . . . is to ensure adequate environmental protection while offering economic opportunities for First Nations and coastal communities, well, the only player that can be eliminated with limited cost is the timber companies," he said. "Eliminate them and everything in the Great Bear becomes possible. Continue to accommodate them and everyone will ultimately lose."

According to a report by the David Suzuki Foundation, logging has continued in the Great Bear. And because of the delay in approving the negotiated land-use plans, logging continues under the current regulations of the B.C. Forest Act and the Forest and Range Practices Act, which are a far cry from the EBM that the CIT called for.

Since the 2001 agreement, over 300 cut blocks have been logged in the Great Bear Rainforest; 74 per cent of logging is done by clearcutting, which removes 70 to 100 per cent of the trees on a specific logging site.

In their report, the David Suzuki Foundation says, "EBM objectives and targets that would serve to protect ecosystem values are limited by economic objectives."

"Unfortunately, a decision was made by some in the environmental community to drop the hammer and sit down and try to negotiate with the companies," said McAllister. "This was and remains a mistake because it unfortunately legitimizes the actions of these companies."

Finding joint solutions

Timber companies got involved with the plan through the Joint Solutions Project, an initiative formed by nine environmental groups and forestry companies to collaborate on finding new solutions to longstanding environmental disagreements in the Great Bear Rainforest.

"It has been an amazing transformation to see two divergent interests find a way to partner together on land-use recommendations in Coastal B.C. that makes sense for both the environment and forestry," said Ric Slaco, Vice-President and Chief Forester of Interfor, in March.

"Five years ago, our business was at risk as B.C.'s forest practices came under fire from a number of environmental campaigns," wrote NorskeCanada president and CEO Russell J. Horner in an April letter to Premier Gordon Campbell. "Fortunately, the innovative collaboration that became known as the Joint Solutions Project completely changed the perspective of B.C. held by many of our customers . . ."

Those new perspectives are based on a plan that hasn't yet been approved, and that's causing some problems for industry, as business people and buyers are wondering why things haven't changed yet.

Forestry representatives claim they are ready to adopt EBM principles—if only they would be passed into law and made clear for those on the ground.

Waiting for government

Though he believes the plan is flawed and "should only be considered a first step towards the goal of protecting the Great Bear—not a final solution," Raincoast's McAllister wants to see it approved by government. "We will maintain our efforts in securing more protection," he said.

Lisa Matthaus, from the B.C. Chapter of the Sierra Club of Canada, acknowledges the shortcomings of the agreement. "We wanted to meet the recommendations of the scientists," she said, "but we couldn't."

According to Matthaus, the only reason the environmental groups are agreeing to the plan and continuing to be supportive is because it is a package of protected areas and a commitment to implement EBM by March 2009.

"The protected areas alone are not sufficient," she said, "but this is a political compromise. You need to have a lot of parties in agreement."

And as it stands, those involved have agreed. What remains is government approval.

According to Matthaus, government-to-government negotiations between the provincial government and First Nations are still ongoing. "There are outstanding elements they are still trying to finalize," she said. "There is still a possibility, a strong hope that this will go to cabinet before Christmas."

TOM GREEN PHOTO

AL HARVEY/SLIDEFARM PHOTO

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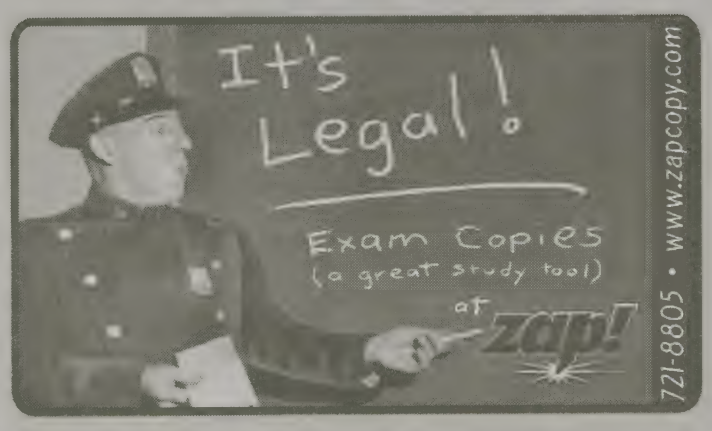

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MARTLET DOES . . . SEATTLE

Cheap treats in the Emerald City

For those of you who want to globe-trot but lack the cash or time to travel afar, our intrepid reporter and honorary Seattleite lets you in on the fun to be had in the Emerald City, often on the cheap—or free!

by Briony Smith

PROVIDED PHOTO

You can't miss Seattle's Space Needle—just look up. Waaaay up.

How to Get There

The **Clipper** is quick, and not too expensive. The terminal is located in the Inner Harbour (254 Belleville St.), and will take you to the waterfront (Pier 69) in Seattle. If you book in advance, it will cost around $90 (all prices in US); if you can leave and return on a Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday, it should only be $60. Either way, it's way less than a plane ticket. And at two hours and 45 minutes, it's much faster than going via Vancouver on a bus-ferry-bus combination.

Where to Stay

Check out the **Green Tortoise Hostel**, a popular hostel (1525 Second Ave.) located right in the middle of it all. Only a couple of blocks from Pike Place Market, it's also right near most of the downtown bus stops. Their rates are $23–$26 for a bed in a dorm-style room. If you stay a week, it's $63 in exchange for working at the hostel for two hours a day.

They also serve a complimentary breakfast every morning, and a free dinner on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday nights.

Getting Around

The bus is super-cheap in Seattle, with fares of $1.25 in non-peak times. Transfers are good for two and a half hours and can be used as many times and in whatever direction you want. The downtown area is a ride-free zone! See http://tripplanner.metrokc.gov to plot out your trip.

What To Do

Seattle has not one, but two awesome street weeklies: *The Stranger* (www.thestranger.com) and *Seattle Weekly* (www.seattleweekly.com). Both are good resources for finding what's happening around town. *Seattle Magazine*'s online "Datebook" is a great place to find all kinds of events, from dance to readings to comedy (www.seattlemag.com).

The online visitors' guide (www.seattlepi.nwsource.com/visitorsguide) is another good resource and has a hunk of tips on outdoors-type activities if you're after a less cosmopolitan getaway.

Entrance to the hip **Frye Art Museum** (704 Terry Ave.) is free, while students with ID get into the **Henry Art Gallery** (located on the western edge of the pretty University of Washington campus at 15th Ave. NE and NE 41st St.) gratis, too.

Perusing the **Pike Place Market** is a must. See the **fish-throwers** (at the entrance to the Market, near the bronze pig), and visit the **Twilight Artists' Collective** (for good art), The Euro sandwich at **La Buona Tavola** (grab one of their canary-coloured flyers at the counter for a 10 per cent off coupon), **Lefty's World** (housed in a weird cage), **Jasmine Thai** (big selection of tasty Thai and Moroccan food—large portions, and each dish only $6.50), and **Pike Place Chowder** (get the southwestern chicken in a bread bowl).

Meet in the gorgeous **Pioneer Square** for the **Underground Tour** (www.undergroundtour.com), which allows you to roam underneath the streets of Seattle and hear some cool history for $9.

Seattle's a good place for sushi, and worth a try is **Blue C Sushi**, (www.bluecsushi.com), where you can just pluck what you fancy off a rotating belt. Arrive early, as you cannot make reservations and they're always busy. At the University Village location you can peruse the cool not-available-in-Victoria stores including the space-age **Apple** store, **Storables**, **Anthropologie**, **Rosanna** (for locally-made funky flatware), **Sephora**, **Something Silver** (which often carries many unique Northwestern lines), and **Victoria's Secret** while you wait.

A fun way to spend a morning is to check out one of the **guided architectural walking tours** (www.seattlearchitecture.org/tours.cfm). They go for about $10–$20 a pop, and some of the cooler ones include historic theatres, art deco buildings, parks, and public art.

Several theatres in town are worth a visit for their ambiance alone: the **Egyptian** has old-time wooden seats, while the **Harvard Exit** has a sumptuous red-velvet lobby. The **Cinerama** is one of the last old-school huge theatres. Held every second Monday is **Cineoke** at the Rendezvous, where you can sing along to movie songs (www.seattlequeerfilm.com/upcoming_events.html).

Capitol Hill is the place to head for a wide variety of fun stores, although asking a cabbie to drop you off in the heart of Fremont or Belltown works, too.

- **Red Light** (312 Broadway Ave. East): Strange, whimsical window displays make the visit worthwhile, as do the acres of vintage finds.
- **Crossroads Trading Company** (325 Broadway Ave. East): Plenty o' cool cheap duds.
- **Aprie** (310 Broadway Ave. East): Cute little boutique filled with colourful offerings at surprisingly low prices.
- **Trendy Wendy** (211 Broadway Ave. East): Inexpensive trendy items, with an occasional slew of chic movie-inspired tees.
- **Edie's Shoes** (319 East Pine St.): Hot shoes for guys and gals
- **Lipstick Traces** (303 East Pine St.): Local designers, with an ever-changing line-up of gorgeous accessories and offbeat gift ideas.
- **Bluebottle Gallery** (415 East Pine St.): Bursting with local talent and all the pop-surrealism you could ever want, this is the perfect place to pick up your very first piece of art (www.bluebottleart.com).
- **ian** (401 East Pine St.): Fancy-shmancy man garb for the dude who can splash out on the latest in cuff watches, luxury denim, and Canadian superstars D-squared.

If you have any Seattle questions, feel free to e-mail Briony at life@martlet.ca.

UVic student finalist in modeling contest

by Bryna Hallam

Kristine Sjulstok is no stranger to controversy.

The third-year English student won the Vancouver Island portion of the Coors Light Maxim Girl model search last year.

To Sjulstok's surprise, the contest and its ads ruffled more than a few feathers around campus.

Now, Sjulstok is entered in Miss Silks 2005, sponsored by pantyhose company Silks and Urban Male Magazine. She said she "decided on a whim" to send in her pictures.

As one of the top 100 entrants, Sjulstok now has her picture gracing the magazine and its website.

Sjulstok says that most people react positively when they learn about the contest. "People are really excited," she said, adding she's had friends call her just to say they saw her in the magazine.

Whether she wins or not, Sjulstok hopes the contest will help jumpstart a modeling career.

For now, she says, modelling is just a side thing she does if an opportunity presents itself.

To vote for Kristine, visit www.umm.ca.

PROVIDED PHOTO

Kristine strikes a pose.

Metamorphoses soaks up applause

Perhaps their strongest production in years, the Phoenix's take on an Ovid adaptation splashes the fourth wall

What: *Metamorphoses*
Where: The Phoenix Theatre, UVic
When: Until Nov. 26, evening performances at 8 p.m.
How much: $10 to $20

by Michelle da Silva

TIM MATHESON PHOTO

Replacing a traditional stage—6,500 litres of water in an ornate, carefully constructed pool.

"Do you want to sit in the wet or the dry section?"

It isn't often that theatregoers are asked such a question.

Water. A nudity warning. Live singing. "Wet" and "dry" audience sections. If those elements don't awaken your inner thespian, you might never venture into a theatre.

Metamorphoses is the latest production of UVic's Phoenix Theatre. The play boasts 6,500 litres of water, 80 costumes, and a cast of 13 theatre students. It's the largest production in the theatre's history.

This version of *Metamorphoses* was written and originally directed by Tony award-winning playwright Mary Zimmerman. She adapted for the stage nine myths from Ovid's poetic masterpiece of the same name.

The original epic is composed of 15 books exploring the theme of "transformation" through a series of bizarre and often moralistic tales. Derived from Greek mythology, the stories are arranged in chronological order, beginning with the creation of the world and ending with the deification of Julius Caesar.

Zimmerman's version opens like a storybook. Three women dressed in plain clothes trade tales while washing laundry by a pool. One of the women begins the story of Midas, whose touch turns everything, including his daughter, into gold.

Next comes Alcyone & Ceyx, a story about the transforming power of reunited love; Erysichthon, a cautionary tale about greed; Orpheus & Eurydice, a myth about love and fear; Pomona & Vertumnus, about the wooing of a wood nymph's heart; Myrrha, whose resistance to love causes her to fall in love with her father; Phaeton, about Apollo's neglected son; Eros & Psyche, a story of blind love; and, finally, Baucis & Philemon, a tale of kindness rewarded.

The myths flow from one to the other in increasingly dark and intense waves. Stories are woven together with the help of recorded instrumental music, flawless lighting, and impressive four-part a capella by members of the cast. The audience is guided through each myth by a narrator-figure, who joins the audience in watching the story unfold.

A pool big enough to hold 7.25 tons of water and the entire cast replaces a traditional stage. The set comprises of four columns and raised platforms, and the audience sits in a horseshoe shape around the action.

"The pool of water is the physical and emotional centre," says guest director Jennifer H. Capraru. "Whether stormy or serene, water evokes all the natural and emotional turbulence we must navigate. It is at once set, character and constant metaphor."

Capraru's water-staging is highly inventive and exciting to watch. From the synchronized swimming-esque dance of the Sirens to Eurydice's submerged journey to the Underworld. From the torrent bed in which Myrrha's fantasies materialize to the therapist's office where Phaeton vents about his divine father.

Capraru visits The Phoenix from the award-winning Theatre Asylum, of which she is the artistic director. Her directorial experiences have taken her all over the world, including Victoria last fall, where, to much acclaim, she directed Intrepid Theatre's *The Trials of John Demjanjuk (The Holocaust Cabaret)*.

Guest costume designer and UVic graduate Tamara Marie Kucheran returns to the Phoenix where she worked previously on *That Elusive Spark*. Her costumes are one of the production's most exciting attractions, as she designs both "wet" and "dry" pieces. Plain, muted dresses created for the laundresses are contrasted with the shimmering gold armor of Apollo and the intricately sewn bodysuits of the Sirens.

All thirteen cast members are experienced theatre students, in second year and above. Both Trevor Hinton and Kaitlyn Regehr deliver emotionally charged performances in the myth of Myrrha, while Kholby Wardell's Phaeton is naturally comedic and memorable. Together, the cast exudes energy and succeeds in evoking a world of fable.

Metamorphoses was originally written for Mary Zimmerman's students at the Theatre and Interpretive Centre of Northwestern University in 1996, and the world premier came on Oct. 25, 1998 at the Lookingglass Theatre Company in Chicago. Since then, the play has had a successful run on Broadway as well as in theatres across North America.

The Phoenix production is Victoria's first taste of Zimmerman's acclaimed adaptation.

Whether you leave wet or dry, *Metamorphoses* offers a unique approach to classical mythology and a refreshing theatre experience.

BOOK | WHEN I WAS YOUNG & IN MY PRIME

When I Was Young & In My Prime
By Alayna Munce
Nightwood Editions, 256 pages

by Lauren Schachter

If the complex swirl of human memory was unfolded and pressed to paper, it might look like this. *When I Was Young & In My Prime* is about nostalgia and forgetting—and the generations caught in between.

Still in the early bloom of marriage, a young woman writes with tender precision about the world around her. At the center of her observations is the aging and decline of her grandparents: the grandmother is stripped bare by Alzheimer's while her husband memorializes his Russian childhood and days as an immigrant farmer in rural Ontario.

Munce's style is fearlessly her own, using poems interspersed with vignettes of narrative told in different voices.

The characters are fleshed out in unusual ways—the Grandfather alone before the sun rises, struggling to put his socks on; the young woman on the bus "wanting to know how to never, never kill time"; or the grandmother's matter-of-fact four-line diary entries.

Going through old boxes, the young woman is impacted by the emotional traces left lingering in the possessions of others. Whether it's a Denby Twilight tea set, a harmonica collection, candy dishes or a shoebox labeled "strings too short to be of use," simple items are invested with an unexpected poignance.

There is a noble strength to being seen in a moment of weakness, and Munce explores this less-traveled territory of vulnerability in all of her characters. The young husband's unspoken fear of thunderstorms, the dwindling list of what the grandmother remembers ("chewing/ with her mouth closed" and "smiling/ when kissed"), the multiple breakings of the grandfather's wrist, the bone poking clean through, "a silent piping in the failing sun."

Each slice of language stands alone as self-contained art—the words seem as carefully exposed as the people they describe.

Certain threads of thought—like the grandfather's accident stories—resurface, continually reminding us of how memory dwells and sifts. A flock of birds appears, each heading a poem and triggering a different stumble into the past.

At first Munce's alternating voices are hard to follow, but once a rhythm is established it becomes another way in which the characters are meant to be discovered. You have to piece together an identity from quirky turns of phrase and temporal references. Anything too straightforward would rob the novel of its subtlety. Munce achieves effortlessly what creative writing students are always nagged to do: show and not tell.

She doesn't try too hard to be profound.

And so it is such lovely irony that what emerges is understated philosophizing at its finest.

A new ensemble for the casual musician

A generous donation from composer Dr. Don Wright allows UVic to fund an open ensemble

What: Don Wright Symphonic Winds
Where: Spectrum Community School Theatre, 957 Burnside Rd. West
When: Thurs, Nov. 24 @ 7:30 p.m.
How much: By donation

by Sarah L. Wakelin

The new Don Wright Symphonic Wind ensemble will finally be able to stretch its wings and show off at its very own concert.

As a result of a generous donation to the Faculty of Education from Don Wright, nearly 20 years of waiting have been ended. Finally, there are enough resources to be able to fund and run a non-auditioned, inclusive ensemble.

"There's been a need in the university for a long time to provide an environment for students who aren't in the school of music, and who don't intend to take on a bachelor of music," says Dr. Steven Capaldo, professor in secondary music education and director of the ensemble.

Wright is a former music educator, performer and composer who has written everything from jingles in Tide commercials to repertoire for the London Orchestra. He has donated funds to university music programs in provinces like Ontario and Manitoba and says that he is absolutely delighted to see how UVic is using his money.

"[Wright] thinks this is a great way to use some of the money: by providing an opportunity for people to play in a group who wouldn't normally have this opportunity," says Capaldo. "His money has meant we can pay for everything to do it. The music, the room, the concert hall, the opportunity to play, a student assistant director position [Jamie Davis for 2005/06] . . . If it wasn't for Dr. Wright, we wouldn't be able to do it.

"I am indebted to him. Every day that we have a rehearsal, I really feel so thankful to Dr. Wright, who gave us the money, who said . . . 'Here's a million dollars that translates to an endowment.' We put the money in the bank and we live off the interest every year. However many years we have . . . we're going to have that money coming in all the time, which will support and fund this group permanently."

Symphonic winds is a name traditionally given to a larger group, usually over 50 students. The repertoire played by the group should be a well-balanced mix between serious, traditional tunes and music from pop culture.

The ensemble currently numbers around 60 students, many of whom aren't in the faculty of music. It also consists of many students who are on a second or even third instrument, as well as some students on international exchanges, and the ensemble always welcomes new members.

"Unlike large ensembles, in which you really need to have those chairs sorted out before each concert cycle, we'll accept members throughout the semester, and we'll accept members before concerts. We'll accept as many members as we can to obviously include everyone that wants to be a part of the ensemble."

Their first performance will be at the Faculty of Education's Awards and Recognition Assembly. Their first concert, which is open to the general public, is on Thursday, Nov. 24 at the Spectrum Community School theatre. It will be a joint concert between the Symphonic Winds, the Spectrum Community School band and the Greater Victoria Junior Concert Band.

"I wanted to make sure our first concert was . . . one that made the links between the school district, the community and the university," says Capaldo, who looks genuinely excited.

"I think it's important to show that triangle of links, and it's a wonderful way to launch the group."

Montreal dance troupe gets meta, steals the show

What: *The Stolen Show*, by Les Ballet Jazz de Montréal
Where: The Royal Theatre, 805 Broughton
When: Thursday, Nov. 18 and Friday, Nov. 19 @ 8 p.m.
How Much: $24 to $45

by Micah Luxen

Onstage, dancers sit in costume, working with their material, preparing for a workshop.

And this is the show.

After all, what's more artistic than exploring the craft and artifice behind the art?

"It's giving an inside view of what the work is and how much work [it takes] for things to go up on stage," says dancer Tara Dyberg.

In *The Stolen Show*, nothing is beyond exploration.

The production suggests that art and entertainment are not interchangeable, but that the artistic endeavours of any show could be stolen by the audience's attraction to entertainment.

"There is a circus theme going on because when you think entertainment, a circus is probably what you would think of," says Dyberg. "Through projections, there are descriptions setting up what's onstage. They're talking about elephants, and we won't have elephants. They're talking about bearded ladies and small cars, but bearded ladies are beyond the budget of [this] dance company."

From time to time, the dancers of Les Ballet Jazz de Montréal members do, indeed, dance, while still examining their craft. Through movement, acclaimed Victoria choreographer Crystal Pite discloses the thought process behind every discovery.

"[The characters] are dancing," says Dyberg. "Sometimes they're in their costumes, like circus-y dancing. [Pite] puts things on your body; you're writing something with the back of your head as you're walking across the floor . . . or you're placing your shoulder up to the ceiling."

Pite is known for her conceptual work, so that the dancers must consider things like how to make a circle with their hip, says Dyberg. "Things all meld into one another... it is contemporary dance; it's not classical dance. I really like how [the show] feels on my body. It's a fun show to do, and it's challenging."

The Stolen Show includes the aforementioned exploratory narrative as well as "Short Works"—24 ideas, each about a minute long, broken up with blackouts—and "Xspectacle," which is something like a rehearsal.

"It's like 24 hors d'oeuvres," says Dyberg.

The Stolen Show has toured Asia, Europe, and Canada.

"I think the work is beautiful, and I like the fact that Crystal Pite is Canadian and I am a Canadian artist representing this work throughout the world. The music is Canadian too, so I'm a bit of an ambassador."

The troupe was especially glad to come home after the entire cast contracted food poisoning while touring Asia.

"Everyone was sick," says Dyberg. There were people "throwing up backstage with people stepping in for other people."

Call it an occupational hazard. But between Pite's reputation and the polished talent of Les Ballet Jazz de Montréal, audiences will leave the theatre with nothing but an appreciation for Canadian art, except, perhaps, a smidgen of stolen entertainment.

You might say that it's all gone according to the plan

We've accomplished a lot at the University of Victoria over the last four years.

More scholarships and financial support for students → more student housing → more graduate programs → more recognition for UVic researchers → 250 new faculty members → the design for a First People's House → an alumni survey and program evaluation → funding for the library and information commons → and much, much more.

The plan was developed in 2001 and 2002 by the Planning and Priorities Committee based on feedback from faculty, students, staff and alumni on the key challenges and opportunities facing UVic.

The plan has served us well. Now that it's time to review and renew it, we'd like your help.

The committee is again asking students and members of the university community for their comments and suggestions about UVic and the future.

Get involved. Check out the Nov. 10 *Ring* campus newspaper or visit uvic.ca/strategicreview to read the discussion document. Then send us your feedback via the webpage or email us at ppreview@uvic.ca.

We'd like your thoughts on what's next

University of Victoria

Planning and Priorities Committee
University Secretary's Office
University of Victoria
PO Box 1700 STN CSC, Victoria, BC V8W 2Y2
www.uvic.ca/strategicreview
ppreview@uvic.ca

Human rights crises on film

Amnesty International's human rights film festival showcases the acclaimed docs *Scared Sacred* and *Seoul Train*

What: Fourth Annual Amnesty International Film Festival
Where: David Lam Auditorium, MacLaurin building
When: Nov. 18–20
How much: By donation

by Melanie Tromp

Eschewing the hypocrisy of many documentary films, the offerings at the 2005 Amnesty International Film Festival are refreshingly smart, provocative and surprisingly optimistic despite the content of the festival's intricately troubled lineup.

Amnesty International (AI) presents documentaries tackling "some of the most incomprehensible human rights violations around the world," says veteran festival organizer Mariko Miller, who brought the budding event to Victoria in 2001 after devouring a range of literature on global injustices.

This year's nine films delve into genocide, political oppression and the inequalities of globalization—old concerns, yes, but hardly stale ones, as the festival puts a proactive spin on international plights of which the average North American is disturbingly ignorant.

Award-winning UVic professor, physician and anti-war activist Dr. Mary-Wynne Ashford is set to open the event on Friday night, introducing the film *Our Bodies – Their Battleground* after a ten-minute presentation on constructive change regarding genital mutilation in Africa.

"Courageous women in Senegal and Kenya are leading a movement to replace the practice [of genital mutilation] with a positive coming-of-age ceremony for [female] children," says Ashford, who has worked with a number of organizations to abolish both nuclear war and female oppression. "This is a recent change that is not likely to make the front page of our newspapers, but is a clear demonstration that cultures can choose to change practices that date back thousands of years."

This change is the very purpose of Amnesty's annual film fest, which aims to illuminate human-rights offenses passed over by North American news sources.

"Often the films are hard to watch because they expose the brutality humans are capable of inflicting on others," says Ashford. "But by raising awareness of situations that are hidden from view, they enable us to take action to bring about change."

One such ignored human-rights crisis is profiled in the acclaimed *Seoul Train*, which outlines the plight of a North Korean refugee's quest for liberation via a modern-day underground railroad.

Famine and political persecution have ravaged the contentious nation, separating the rich party loyalists from the poor and resulting in some three million dead as well as a flood of refugees "illegally" crossing the Chinese border on their way to freedom.

The problem is, in repatriating, China condemns many refugees to torture, forced labor and possible execution.

The characters in this engaging tale are average people bravely networking for the sake of humanitarian aid, though they're not always successful in their efforts. Filmmakers Lisa Sleeth and Jim Butterworth not only vilify the Chinese government for their outrageous repatriation of refugees, but also condemn idle global institutions for allowing these Asian countries to continually break international law.

Seoul Train brilliantly exposes this hidden atrocity by drawing on the human experiences of fear, anticipation, success and defeat while shedding light on the politics of a potential crisis if North Korea's totalitarian regime falls.

This year's diverse selection of films is spearheaded by the multi-award-winning and critically acclaimed feature-length documentary *Scared Sacred*.

Amidst a barrage of media implying a world bent on self-destruction, Velcrow Ripper's film embarks on a novel pilgrimage to man-made "ground zeros" across the globe, originally as a "tourist of darkness" and later, after Buddhist teachings in India, as a spiritual compassionate on a pensive quest for hope and self-discovery.

The engaging documentary is boldly optimistic, touring the aftermath of tragedies including a gassed-out Bhopal, reverent Hiroshima and post-9-11 New York City. This narrative searches for the sacred obscured by fear, whether it is buried next to a landmine in Cambodia's jungle, amidst debris-turned-artwork in hellish Bosnia, or within the collective spirit of a revolutionary women's movement in war-torn Afghanistan.

Ripper's video-journal weaves a story as poetic as it is poignant, shaped to tug the heartstrings and draw inspiration from historic tragedy without reverting to mechanical clichés or preaching, despite undertones of Buddhist dogma. The narrator evokes a kind of Gandhian pacifism that makes the film's catchphrase, "Breathe in suffering, breathe out compassion," possible amidst haunting memoirs of a world in trouble.

Amnesty's comprehensive lineup is intended to inspire and motivate its audience.

Pushing the idea that non-violent personal activism transcends political boundaries also means including letters of protest and investigative reporting.

"The films usually show people who are risking their lives because they want to see change that will benefit others," says Ashford. "Their courage is enormously inspiring."

"Governments bend over backwards not to have AI on their case. When [AI] was formed, many of us thought our letters would be meaningless in the face of [oppressive] dictatorships. Now we know how often our letters have saved lives and led to the release of political prisoners."

Since UVic is considered home to a socially aware and active student population, further reading as well as letters of protest will be distributed during each screening. Over 20 local organizations are setting up camp at the festival to provide resources and information, attempting to connect global issues with the community at a local level.

"I think, for the casual newcomer, this film festival will educate and empower, and potentially allow [for] the opportunity to experience the world with a different lens," says Miller. "[This] perspective may help promote understanding between cultures and emphasize an individual's responsibility in this time of globalization."

For more information on the film festival and a complete program of events, visit www.amnestyfilmsvictoria.ca

VELCROW RIPPER GRAPHIC

***Scared Sacred* chronicles a pilgrimage to man-made ground zeros.**

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Homegrown rockers keep it chaotic

Ontario's the Rheostatics stay the course 20 years later, hitting Victoria on a 'Western Swing'

Who: Rheostatics, with Shane Koyzan
Where: Sugar Nightclub, 858 Yates
When: Thursday, Nov. 17
How much: $20 at the door

by Lindsay Dolling

PROVIDED PHOTO

From left, Tim Vesely (bass), Michael Phillip-Wojewoda (drums), Dave Bidini (guitar) and Martin Tielli (guitar).

When a band confidently titles their first album *Greatest Hits*, it will, without a doubt, attract the attention of industry critics waiting to either sell them or shelve them.

Luckily, for the members of the Canadian rock band the Rheostatics, Martin Tielli (vocals, guitar) Tim Vasely (vocals, bass) Dave Bidini (vocals, guitar) and Michael Phillips-Wojewoda (drums), there was never any interest in becoming a commercial commodity or taking their little band from Etobicoke, Ont., to the top of the Billboard charts.

At least "never to the detriment of the music," says Tielli, who joined shortly after the formation and once some internal kinks had been worked out. "I don't think we could ever play music we didn't believe in, or accept all those marketing tricks that make us feel slightly uncomfortable."

And after nearly 20 years and 11 albums, it's hard not to believe in their music, which can only be described as "a combo of everything that each of [them] is into."

Recently, they've found new inspiration in a number of pet projects.

"It makes everyone a lot happier and keeps us entertained," says Tielli, whose other careers include solo musician, visual artist, and actor.

In fact, on Jan. 19, 2006, the CBC will showcase Tielli's acting skills in the premier of *Black Widow*, a black and white film in which Tielli's character, Johnny Hardwick, marries the woman carrying his child only to be murdered by his bride and her mother.

"It's a true story about a woman who is sort of a society slut in the 1940s. It's pretty mysterious and intriguing," says Tielli.

While each member of the Rheostatics has his own projects, together they organize and participate in The Green Sprouts Music Week, a vehicle for new musicians to gain the kind of public support only achieved through playing live shows.

The Rheos have always supported bettering the Canadian music industry.

"The current state of music, how it's being marketed and sold to people, is dismal. It's really unadventurous and uninspiring," says Tielli.

No matter how busy their individual ventures keep them, the Rheos aren't going to let that stop them from regrouping and heading back out on the road.

Their East and West Coast tours, comically titled "Ontari-Ario" and the "Western Swing," are a chance for the band to remind loyal fans why they're considered one of Canada's most influential rock groups.

Their shows are known to be unpredictable. Tielli reminiscēs about a previous Victoria performance at the late Harpos Cabaret, where the entire crowd was directed outside so the band could finish their set under the night sky.

"It was one of those perfect nights. We all felt really good and we were all playing great," says Tielli.

The Rheostatics play a unique and unscripted show with most of the songs chosen only minutes before going onstage.

In order to best enjoy the show, says Tielli, attend without any expectations.

Intrepid Theatre buys Metro Studio, fundraises with *Usher*

Edgar Allen Poe's macabre short story comes to life at the Metro Studio in support of Fringe producers

What: Poe's *The Fall of the House of Usher*
Where: The Metro Studio, 1411 Quadra
When: Friday, Nov. 18 and Saturday, Nov. 19 @ 8 p.m.
How much: $15

by Clarke Ries

The curtains will rise Nov. 18 and 19 at the Intrepid Theatre's newly acquired Metro Studio, and behind them—*The Fall of the House of Usher*, in all its macabre glory.

"In 1984 I saw a production of *Richard III* at Stratford, and I said, this is exactly what I want to do for the rest of my life," says Ian Case, the man behind the play.

Case followed his dream of working in theatre, graduating from UVic in 1994 with a double major in theatre and English. Case had no trouble finding employment following graduation.

"I was hired directly into Theatre Inconnu, and I did acting and administration with them for three and a half years. I also co-founded and administrated the first year of the Victoria Shakespeare Festival. In 1998 I founded Giggling Iguana Productions, and I've directed over a dozen site-specific productions with them over the last six years."

The Fall of the House of Usher was originally adapted from an Edgar Allen Poe short story by Case, and for its four-season sell-out run between 2000 and 2003 it was performed in the supposedly haunted Craigdarroch Castle. The play borrowed some major fright muscle from its setting. Case chuckles when asked whether he can still deliver the creeps on a stage. Recalling his theatre company's tour of the play along the Sunshine Coast, he says, "Oh, yeah. We still got lots of screams."

This latest iteration is a bit different from the routine, though. The two-day remount of the production is in support of a major purchase by the Intrepid Theatre.

"Intrepid Theatre is the producer of the Victoria Fringe Festival, the Uno Festival, and they've just acquired the Metro Studio from the Conservatory of Music, a new downtown 200-seat civic performance space," explains Case. "In order to finance the purchase, Intrepid needs to raise about $300,000 over the next year, and I thought it would be nice to donate."

In this case, what Case is donating is the use of his hot-ticket Poe adaptation and the phenomenal Giggling Iguana cast, whose ranks include Kate Rubin in the role of the frail Madeline Usher and Paddy Crawford as the sinister Usher Doctor.

Case is the driving force behind the play, and the list of responsibilities he rattles off over the phone is frightening.

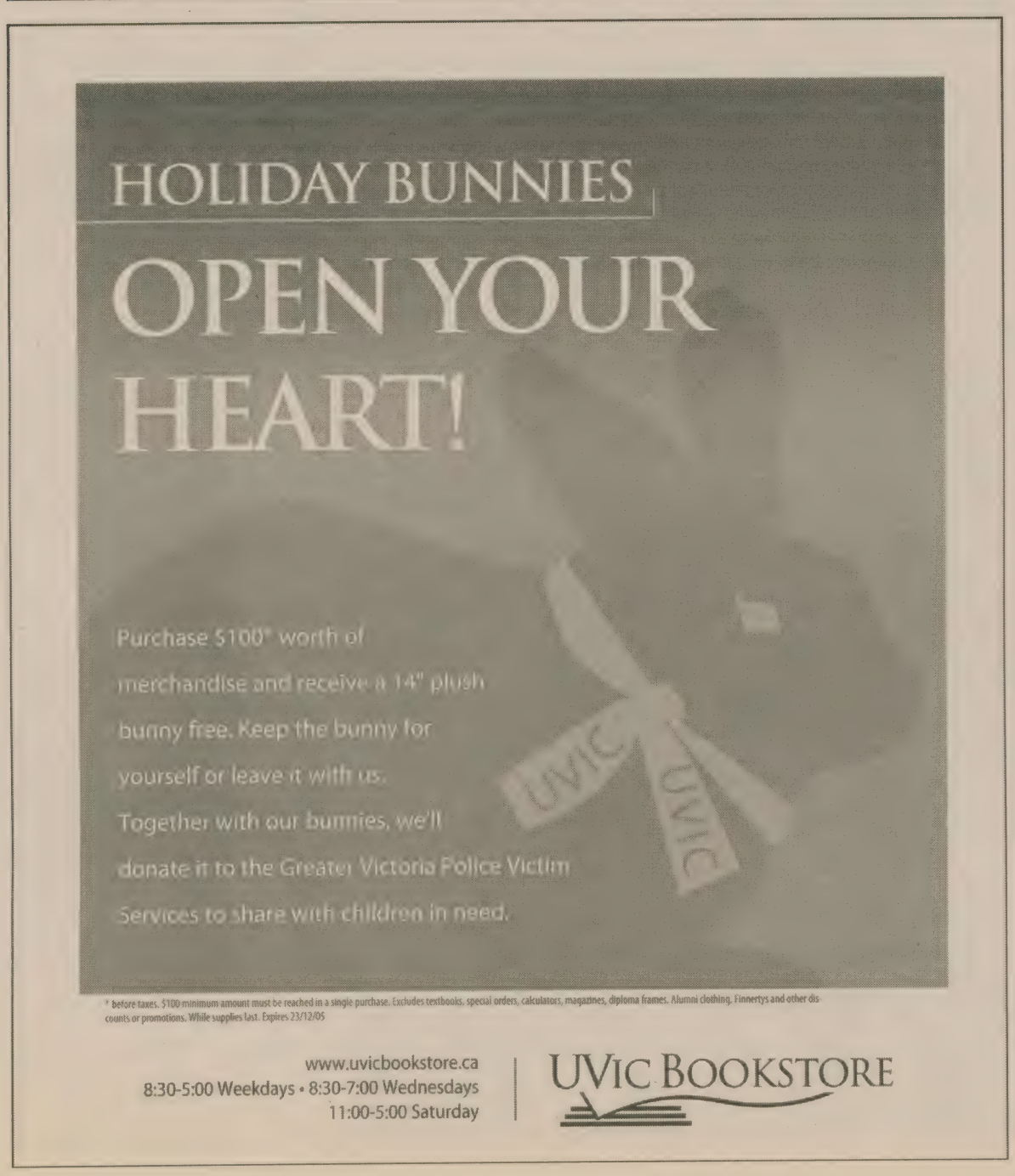
"I'm the general manager for Intrepid Theatre, I essentially run the capital campaign, I wrote the adaptation for the play, I directed it, and I'm playing the role of Roderick Usher."

With *The Fall of the House of Usher*, Ian Case directs a play that has reliably scared the hell out of audiences for years.

"A lot of it is the expressionism," says Case. "It's about taking all of what's internal and flipping it to the outside. It's about taking all of the subtext and internal emotions and putting it out, making it very raw.

"As far as *Usher*, we add in a twist of darkness [and] work with some primal, darker emotions. Often our actors will use very twisted hands, usually in claws. Their faces will be in grimaces, their movements are never smooth. It's not subtle, yet it is, because subtlety is in the way you finesse it," says Case.

"When the audience has been sucked into the looking glass," Case says with a chuckle, "then they're ready to be scared by our bag of tricks."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MEGAN STEWART PHOTO

A Vike takes down a streaking McGill Martlet at the CIS championships Nov. 4 at Wallace Field.

Losing a part of learning curve

by Megan Stewart

In the face of back-to-back winless tournaments, the Vikes will benefit from the learning opportunity, say the team's coaches.

The women's rugby team failed to win a game against university-calibre competition at two consecutive Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) tournaments. The Vikes scored a combined seven points and gave up 89 in three games at the Canada West matches in October.

Normally the losses would eliminate the Vikes from championship play, but as hosts of the CIS nationals, UVic earned an automatic berth to the Nov. 4–6 tournament. At the recent CIS championships, the Vikes lost to the Western Ontario Mustangs, the McGill Martlets and the St. Francis Xavier X-Women.

However, assistant coach Ian Cuickshank said that six losses in as many games won't get the Vikes down. "The kids learned they can compete with anybody in the country," he said after the Nov. 4 loss to the Martlets.

"To be here is a privilege and we may not get the chance in a long time."

The Vikes interim head coach Bruce Howe shared the positive sentiment after losing the fifth place match the following day to the X-Women.

In that game the Vikes took their first official lead of the tournament and totaled 17 points in the 33–17 loss. "We got better each game we played," said Howe, "and this game proved that we can mix it with the best in Canada and the girls proved their potential."

THE GATEWAY PHOTO

The Vikes celebrate in Edmonton Nov. 13 after bringing in the Canadian Interuniversity Sport Gladys Bean Trophy.

Vikes win soccer gold

by Megan Stewart

With three goals and a shutout in the gold-medal game, the Vikes left no question as to who are the rightful national champs.

The women's soccer team captured gold at the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) championships with a 3–0 win over the University of Ottawa Gee Gees Nov. 13 in Edmonton.

Team co-captain Carey Gustafson was named tournament MVP. Liz Hansen, Amelie Mercier, Amy Throgood and Sarah Cameron joined her on the Canadian all-star team.

After the win, Gustafson said she was at a loss for words.

"I'm speechless," she said. "We peaked at the exact moment we needed to. We just kept getting better and better."

UVic missed two early chances, but Hansen put the team up by one after the Gee Gees failed to clear the ball from their defensive end. The second goal came as an airborne cross from Thorogood found the head of Mercier who buried the ball in the net.

In the second half, the Vikes pinned the Gee Gees in their own end and allowed the second-place finishers only one offensive chance.

The third goal came late in the second half. A shot from Mariel Solsberg rebounded to Janelle Smith who redirected the ball into the net.

Head Coach Tracy David, who led the University of Alberta Pandas to gold medals in 1989 and 1997, said the Vikes' showing was flawless.

"We saved our best performance for the end," she said. "Our defense, midfield and players up front all played perfect. We played mistake-free."

With the win, the Vikes will host next year's CIS championships and are guaranteed a berth in the tournament.

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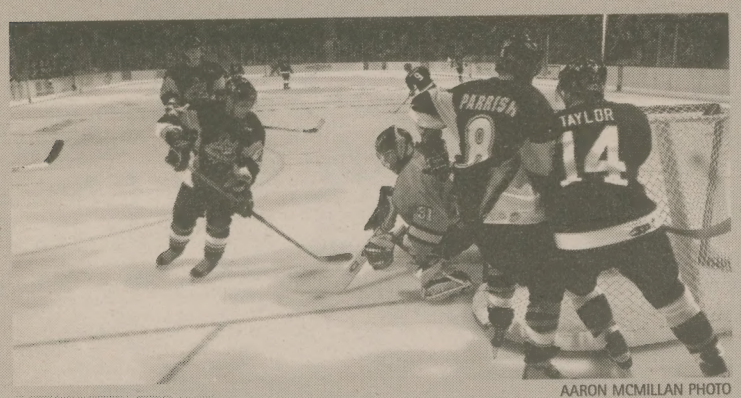

AARON MCMILLAN PHOTO

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MEGAN STEWART PHOTO

The author putts from close range to finish the first hole at the Malahat Disc Golf Course.

New course tries to fill void

by Ford Walker

Victoria disc golfers grieved sorely when the Juan de Fuca course closed. Unlike other West Coast cities where hundreds of private and public courses skirt the area, Victoria lacks any dedicated disc golf course.

Disc golfers are relegated to playing object-orientated courses where the holes are trees or landmarks instead of baskets, which can lead to property damage. A look at the totem poles in the UVic quad near the McPherson Library shows the extensive damage that object-orientated courses can cause.

With metre-tall metal baskets, tee boxes and designated fairways, the Malahat Disc Golf Course, which opens Nov. 19, will try to fill the void left after the Juan de Fuca course closed in the winter of 2004.

Considering the amount of local interest in the sport, it is amazing that this course is the only one open. According to the Island Disc Golf Society (IDGS), of the 24 courses in the province, six are in the Greater Vancouver area, two are on Cortes Island, one is in Nanaimo and one each is on Salt Spring and Pender islands, but those destinations are considerable journeys from Victoria for a round of golf.

The private Malahat course, owned and operated by Dana Petursson, is located 35 minutes outside Victoria near the summit of the Malahat highway. She brought in Todd Martin from the IDGS to plan and organize the 18-hole course. Six holes remain unfinished and the clubhouse is currently a cement-floored garage, but Petursson has plans for a pro-shop, woodstove, self-serve barbeques, a cafeteria and a child's play area.

The drive is a major drawback, but the sights are worth it. The sky-high location affords many sun-kissed views and the brush is diverse and lush but doesn't obstruct. A major drawback to many courses, thick undergrowth—like raspberry bushes—is a common place for disc golfers to lose their gear. The course itself is unique and challenging. Each hole as two pin sets, so the baskets can rotate mid-season for a harder contest later in the year, and two tee boxes, one for short play and one for long.

The course layout is rugged, and rapid changes in elevation mean it isn't a simple stroll in the park like other popular courses. Narrow, sawdust-covered paths and some secure stairs mark the fairways, but barren rock faces and cliffs bring an element of danger to the course, making decent boots a necessity. Players with weak knees and those not used to steep, rocky terrain may have a difficult time getting around.

Why is it that Victoria has been so hard up for good courses? It is not as if the equipment is not available, for there are three shops in town that each have a decent selection of discs and accessories.

As the three UVic campus courses have shown, property damage caused by unauthorized object courses is extensive and it's a problem directly related to a lack of dedicated courses with baskets.

PRO LINGO

Basket
The goal of disc golf is to get your disc into the basket at end of the hole. Usually made of metal, the basket sits on a two-metre pole and has chains hanging down so the disc will fall into the cage below.

Backhand
Most players throw backhand. Gripping the disc with your dominant hand much as you would grip a Frisbee (four fingers under the lip and the thumb on the side), a backhand throw brings the disc across the body and is powered by rotating the shoulder and swinging the arm.

Forehand
In the forehand throw the disc is held with two or three fingers plus the thumb and is thrown from the side of the body. The arm alone powers this throw.

Hammer toss/baseball throw
With the disc in the forehand grip, the disc is thrown over the head and will gain elevation before flattening out upside down and continuing forward. This throw is useful for uphill shots and for throwing over obstacles.

Putt
A light throw from reasonably close to the basket that will reach the basket, fall into the chains but not bounce out.

Drive
Done on long or tee-off shots, the goal of a drive is to send the disc as far down the fairway as possible or to put the disc in a strategic place.

Lay
This is the throw that lands the disc closest to the basket without making it in.

Hyzer
When throwing an average backhand, the disc will turn left as it loses momentum and rotations slow down.

Anhyzer
When throwing an average forehand, the disc will turn right as it slows down.

Weighing the game against the books

Can student athletes strike a balance?

by Jessica Earle

In their pursuit of excellence, elite athletes can draw lip-curling awe from the most cynical of us. In their bones lies the drive to push harder, be better and achieve more.

But for most Vikes, the Olympic maxim of "*Citius, Altius, Fortius*"—"higher, faster, stronger"—shares the podium with another demanding role: being full-time students.

The pressure to succeed extends beyond the playing field to the classroom, but neither sport nor school can dominate. It's a balancing act and if a student's athletics are high-calibre, an athlete's academics must also measure up. If the game is lost, they must turn unaffected to the books, and if the essay is criticized, they must take to the court undaunted.

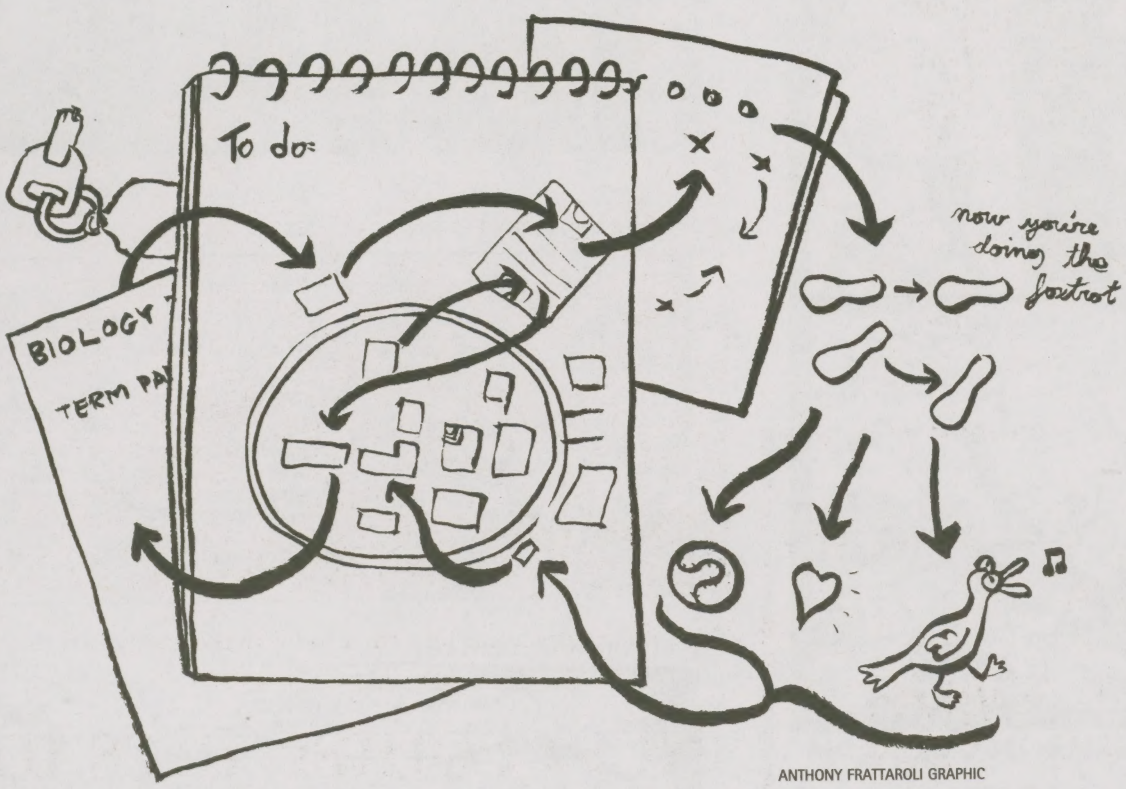
Beyond achievement and excellence, what if the real challenge is about setting limits? About walking away with a sense of self, not just a sense of accomplishment?

"Coaching at this level isn't pushing people—it's pulling them back," said Brent Fougner, Vikes cross-country head coach. "They love to run and they love to do it too much."

Student athletes need to learn time management skills, and balancing a number of high-pressure demands "is a really difficult thing," said Bruce Wilson, the men's head soccer coach.

"They have their own schedule, then we [add] our athletic training schedule," said Wilson, whose team barely missed play-offs despite a late-season run. "Add that with weekend games, and sometimes you add that with girlfriends and work. Our athletes very quickly learn to manage time. They're forced to."

"Sometimes the perception is that good athletes are only [at UVic] for the athletics," said Fougner, "but they have a lot of choices. Most of the ones on the team scored 90 per cent or higher in high school."



ANTHONY FRATTAROLI GRAPHIC

Both Wilson and Fougner say athletic discipline benefits other areas of an athlete's life. They focus on developing regular routines and are particularly aware of healthy eating and sleeping habits.

With a competitive season that spans two semesters, Vikes cross-country runner Wendy Hurdle has learned to take advantage of spare time to get ahead with schoolwork. Sidelined last season with a foot injury, the fourth-year biology and French student often had more time for school, but didn't finish work any sooner.

"Last year I had more time to do school, but I wasn't necessarily wanting to put more time in," said Hurdle. "When I'm running, I use the time I have instead of stretching things out for longer than I should."

Vikes benefit from a philosophy that maintains school as their top priority. Athletes and coaches agree that everyone from benchwarmers to team MVPs are at UVic for an education.

"As far as interest goes, it's obviously sports first," said soccer striker Peter Richmond, "but school has to come first. That's what's reinforced in our heads."

Like Richmond, Hurdle welcomes varsity competition, but doesn't limit herself to a future in sports.

"I'm not going to make a career out of running," she said. "It's hard sometimes. [School and running] are both important to me, but when I have to choose, I choose school."

Vikes athletic therapist Krista Mullaly Dobbin says that a holistic approach is important. If university is the time to explore a number of new things, student athletes—like other students—are challenged with balancing top priorities with other pursuits like entertainment, romance, friendship and travel.

"They need to deal with all aspects of health. They can't just get lost with their sport and their school," said Dobbin, who is currently completing her masters in sports psychology.

But sometimes the healthiest choice is being able to take a breather and not take up another activity. Fougner warns against doing too much, too soon.

"When you come to university, there are so many things going on," he said. "If you try to do everything, you're not going to survive. You can't do everything at the top level."

Coaches play a pivotal role in helping athletes stay healthy by trying to keep their enthusiasm in check. Fougner says it's vital he help bridle keen newcomers for the benefit of their overall health and performance.

"Usually, when a new athlete comes in, we really restrict how much they're doing through the first semester. We let them go out and make mistakes," he said.

Wilson has seen his soccer players' highs and lows, and he agrees that coaches must remember the level of maturity and limited experience of young competitors. "You can't expect very much out of first-year players," he said. "They're just adapting to the environment of the university, of being away from home, of all of a sudden having exams and midterms.

"As our players get older, we put a little more onus on them to lead the younger ones."

Dobbin says she's seen "burnout symptoms" but overall said she is impressed with most athletes' ability to balance various commitments.

Wilson keeps the focus of university athletics in mind. "It's a good environment to come and relieve stress because when you come to training, all of a sudden you can put your books away and now, for an hour and a half to two hours, you can be involved with a team, doing an activity that you love."

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ON CAMPUS

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Truth can be found in the milky yellow stain of a gym- shirt armpit.

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THERE HAS TO BE A LOGICAL EXPLANATION FOR HOW THIS... THIS THING CAME OUT OF OUR CAT.
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS?
GRAR!
I MEAN, HOW DO YOU THINK BUTCHER EVEN GOT PREGNANT? DO YOU SEE A DADDY CAT AROUND HERE ANYWHERE?
CLEARLY, A HIGHER POWER WAS INVOLVED IN THIS. WE HAVE WITNESSED A VIRGIN BIRTH! THIS IS A DIVINE MIRACLE!
THAT'S YOUR IDEA OF A DIVINE MIRACLE? A VIRGIN CAT GIVING BIRTH?
YES.
TO A DINOSAUR?!?
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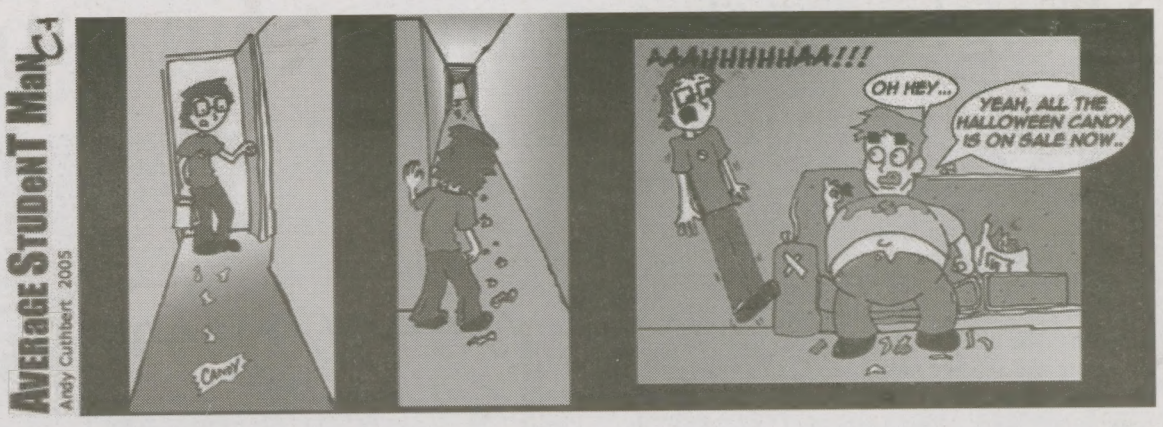
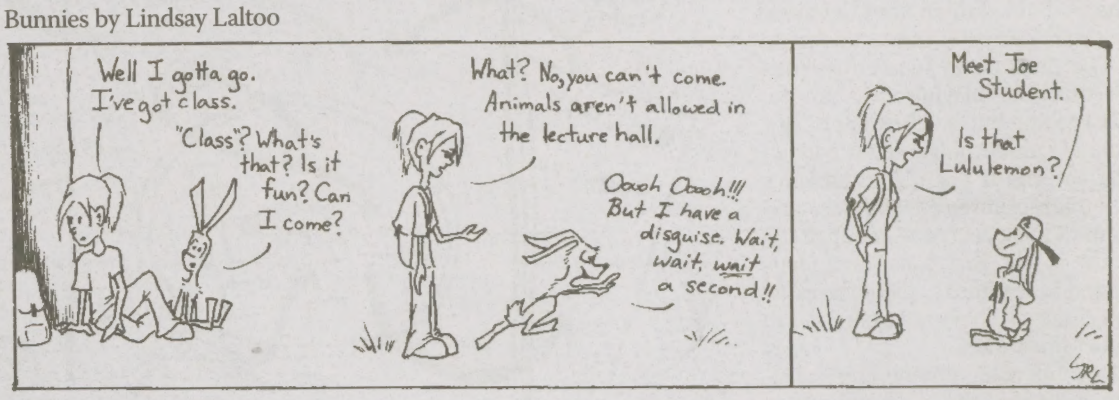
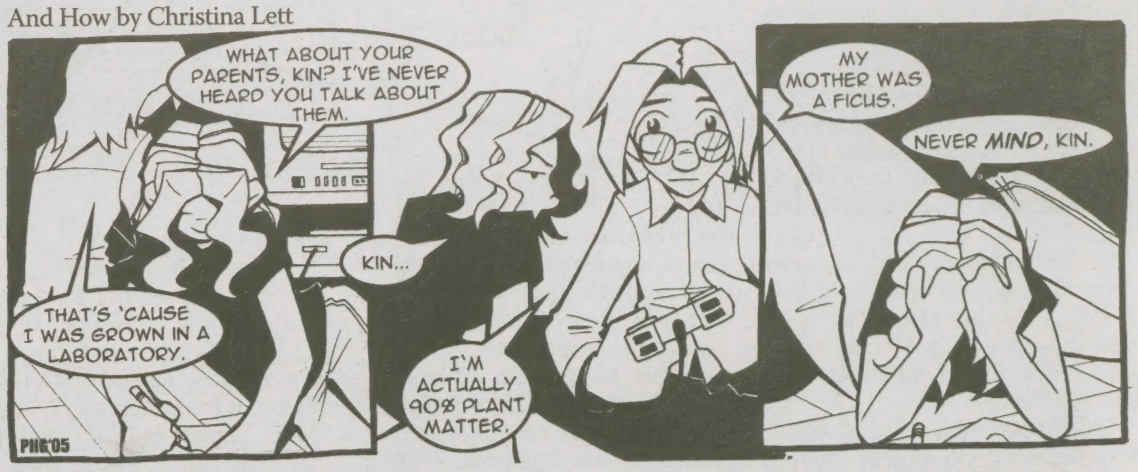


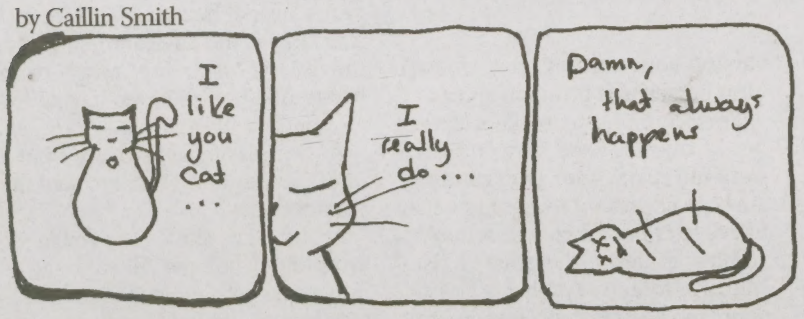
Bunnies by Lindsay Laltoo

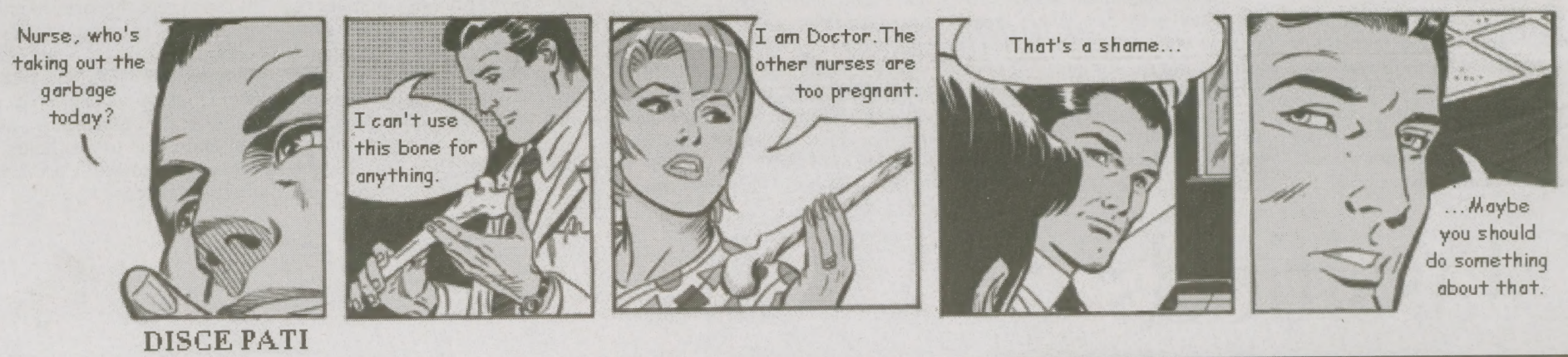

Well I gotta go. I've got class.
"Class"? What's that? Is it fun? Can I come?
What? No, you can't come. Animals aren't allowed in the lecture hall.
Oooh Oooh!!! But I have a disguise. Wait, wait, wait a second!!
Meet Joe Student.
Is that Lululemon?

And How by Christina Lett


WHAT ABOUT YOUR PARENTS, KIN? I'VE NEVER HEARD YOU TALK ABOUT THEM.
KIN...
THAT'S 'CAUSE I WAS GROWN IN A LABORATORY.
I'M ACTUALLY 90% PLANT MATTER.
PHE'05
MY MOTHER WAS A FICUS.
NEVER MIND, KIN.

by Caillin Smith




Nurse, who's taking out the garbage today?
I can't use this bone for anything.
I am Doctor. The other nurses are too pregnant.
That's a shame...
...Maybe you should do something about that.

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